Ease and continuing access to journal content

The coming year will be critical for the library and information sector as we give priority to ensuring that researchers, students and their teachers have both ease and continuity of access to online journals.

With SUNCAT we set out to achieve the wish of JISC and the Research Libraries Support Programme (RLSP) to meet the demands of the community for easier access to information on ‘who holds what’ across the 70 largest research libraries. A new link to SCONUL Access (see below) for borrowing rights now complements the link via electronic tables of contents such as Zotoc to the articles on the ‘digital shelf’.

The focus also has to be on continuity of access, not only because of the financial squeeze on library budgets but also, more fundamentally for reasons of digital preservation, to ensure that what is now available in digital form will always be usable. EDINA has been working with JISC Collections to scope an entitlement registry for NESLi2 deals to assist with end-user access to e-journal back copy if current subscriptions have to be cancelled.

A section of the EDINA website has been set up to collect together our activity in ensuring continuity of access, whatever the form of licence – subscription or open access: http://edina.ac.uk/ensuringaccess.html. Please tell us what you would like to see us doing to help.

As part of the development of the SUNCAT service we envisage a ‘blue flag’ to indicate which e-journal is being kept safe by one or more of the archival agencies that have been stepping forward. This is based on the PEPRS project activity with the ISSN International Centre to support an e-journals preservation registry service. We are on track to release a public beta service; meanwhile, we can demonstrate a prototype using sample data from CLOCKSS, e-Depot, Portico and the UK LOCKSS Alliance.

e-Journals workshop

These and other initiatives will be discussed at a workshop being sponsored by the Digital Preservation Consortium, JISC and EDINA: “e-Journals are Forever?” at the British Library in London, 26 April. We hope to see some of you there, and we plan to report back on this important area.

- e-Journals are forever?

New libraries

Around ten new libraries will be added to SUNCAT throughout 2010. These include a range of Higher Education and specialist libraries selected on factors such as the uniqueness and size of their serials collection, their geographic location and the quality of their serials bibliographic data.

The first of the new libraries, to be added in the next few months, include:

- Aberystwyth University Library
- British Film Institute Library
- Kingston University Library
- Loughborough University Library
- Tate Library, London
- Trinity College Library, Dublin
- Wiener Library, Institute of Contemporary History

A full list of the existing 70 contributing libraries is available at http://www.suncat.ac.uk/description/contributing_libraries.html.

SCONUL Access links

Links to SCONUL Access have been added to enable users to find out quickly about getting access to journals they have discovered or located using SUNCAT.

SCONUL Access is a reciprocal access scheme, granting borrowing privileges to many types of library users working or studying at participating Higher Education libraries in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The links are available from the top right-hand side of the full-record display in SUNCAT. Clicking on the link takes users directly into the SCONUL Access site where they can find out about their access and borrowing rights to over 170 UK Higher Education libraries.

For those SUNCAT contributing libraries which are not included in the SCONUL Access scheme, we advise visiting the library’s website to check access arrangements. Links to the contributing libraries’ websites are available in the left-hand column of the holdings display in SUNCAT (or see the link above).

- SCONUL Access
  http://www.access.sconul.ac.uk

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SUNCAT Download Service

SUNCAT enables its contributing libraries free download of MARC21 records provided by the ISSN and CONSER. Until recently SUNCAT has not provided access to the MARC records of other contributing libraries because of concerns about intellectual property rights with regard to records supplied by third-party organisations. The SUNCAT team have now reached agreements with these suppliers to make all five million MARC records in SUNCAT available for download by our contributing libraries.

Before expanding the service, however, we are taking some time to find out how the existing service is used and how it could be improved. Six interviews have been conducted and an online survey has been distributed to cataloguing staff at our contributing libraries. The results of this consultation will ensure that the service expands and evolves in response to user requirements.

The SUNCAT service is free to all our contributing libraries, with details of how to set up and configure the Z39.50 connection on the Help and Support page of the SUNCAT website.

- SUNCAT  
  http://www.suncat.ac.uk/

Open Access Repository Junction project website

Interoperability between digital repositories is important, and several projects and organisations are now investigating the broad issues. However, there seems to be little implementation of project outcomes, or cooperation between organisations to achieve greater interoperability between their repositories.

The purpose of the Open Access Repository Junction (OA-RJ) project is to scope, build and test a deposit broker tool to assist open access deposit into multiple existing repository services. We aim to link up the deposit process between individual institutional repositories and also central subject-based repositories. In doing so we hope to simplify the whole repository deposit workflow for multiple-authored journal articles.

You can keep up to date with the latest news and developments from the OA-RJ project with our new project website and blog.

The website sets out the project aims and objectives, describes the intended deliverables and contains all the relevant project documentation in one place.

The blog is informal in tone and records progress as it occurs. This is an opportunity for readers to see our decision-making processes, the methodologies underlying the work, and also offers an opportunity to interact with the project team and comment on what we are doing.

- OA-RJ website – http://edina.ac.uk/projects/oa-rj/  
- OA-RJ blog – http://sarepojunction.wordpress.com/

Corporate documentation updated

Recently updated versions of several of our corporate documents are available on a dedicated page of the EDINA website. They provide an overview of current activity and future directions, and include our Annual Report and Review of 2008/2009, the EDINA Strategy 2010-2013, Business Development Plan 2010-2013 and Community Report, March 2010. We welcome your feedback on any of these documents.

- Corporate Reports  
  http://edina.ac.uk/about/docs.html

JorumOpen offers Creative Commons resources

Jorum, already a trusted source of learning and teaching resources, has now opened up for the sharing of resources created under Creative Commons (CC) licences through its new collection – JorumOpen.

JorumOpen provides free access to a growing collection of open educational resources available globally, and we encourage further deposit of open materials. We will also see further content deposited via the UKOER Programme and tagged as ‘ukoer’.

Members of UK Further and Higher Education Institutions can deposit using the UK Access Management Federation to log in – but anyone is able to search, browse and download the resources deposited into JorumOpen.

The new Jorum Deposit Chooser will guide users through a simple step-by-step process to help determine which Jorum collection is the most suitable for their needs.

All material within JorumOpen is exposed to search engines such as Google – further enhancing the accessibility of these resources, and providing the perfect platform for users to showcase their work and learn from the expertise of others.

Alongside the JorumOpen collection, Jorum’s existing collection – JorumUK – will continue. JorumUK contains resources that their creators and owners prefer to share only within the UK Higher and Further Education community. This collection contains all resources deposited in Jorum prior to 2010 under the previous institutional licence: these require an institutional subscription to deposit, search, browse and download resources.

Changes to the JorumUK collection will be made throughout 2010, which will see the introduction of an additional licence – JorumEducationUK. This licence will enable creators and owners to share only within the UK Further and Higher Education community. Other new features set for release include:

- A unified search tool – enabling users to search across all resources held within both the JorumOpen and JorumUK collections.
- A central deposit tool, allowing depositors to access a single point to contribute resources automatically into either collection.

To keep up-to-date with Jorum developments, join the Jorum JISCmail list or look out for announcements on the Jorum website, and follow us via Twitter (jorumteam).

- Jorum  
  http://www.jorum.ac.uk  
- Jorum JISCmail list  
  http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/JORUM-UPDATE

More Wellcome films in Film & Sound Online

Eighteen new films have been added to the Wellcome Film collection in the Film & Sound Online service.

Wellcome Film provides access to films and videos which were previously only available to view on site at the Wellcome Library’s premises. Researchers, educators and students are able to witness the evolution of medicine and health over the past 100 years and engage with the use of film as a communication tool in the medical sciences.

- Film & Sound Online:  
  http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk/
Digimap: Roam rolls out across collections

Following the successful release of Roam, the new Digimap web mapping application for viewing and printing Ordnance Survey maps, EDINA’s Geo Team are now busy building new “Roam style” mapping applications for the other Digimap Collections.

Ancient Roam

First to go live will be Ancient Roam Beta. This will provide not only the historical maps already available through Historic Digimap but also the wonderfully detailed historical Town Plans covering all of the major towns and cities in Great Britain from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries.

Along with this extra data, Ancient Roam will offer many functional improvements, such as a better interface, bigger, higher quality on-screen maps and improved printing.

Geology and Marine Digimap

Following Ancient Roam will be Roam equivalents for Geology Digimap and Marine Digimap. As well as the built-in benefits which Roam brings with it, new custom functionality is being built into the respective mappers. Geology Roam will have additional features, like links to geological photo libraries, and Marine Roam will be specifically built to deliver the thematic SeaZone Hydrospatial marine and coastal zone management data – opening up a whole new way of viewing and using marine spatial data on-line.

Ancient Roam Beta will be released in late Spring 2010. Geology and Marine versions will be released during Summer 2010.

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

Land Life Leisure service changes

EDINA and Aberystwyth University will make changes to the Land Life Leisure service at the end of the present subscription period on 31 July 2010.

Regrettably, after a recent period of consultation it was felt that the sustainability of the service in its current form cannot be maintained at present subscription levels. Several changes are therefore planned:

• No further updates to the database from August 2010. However, access to existing content (a 20-year archive from 1990-2010) will continue at least until August 2011.
• The database will become openly accessible with no password, IP check or institutional subscription, thereby making it available to any interested researcher or learner.
• Institutions that subscribe to EDINA CAB Abstracts will retain the option to cross-search both databases.
• The document delivery service will no longer be offered.

EDINA and Aberystwyth University will review these arrangements to see if more changes are required. We will continue to consider alternative sustainable models for the service, such as a community indexing system, and welcome suggestions.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the transition please contact us: edina@ed.ac.uk.

• Land Life Leisure
  http://edina.ac.uk/landlifeleisure/
EDINA Digimap tenth anniversary event

O
n 20 January 2010 EDINA held a celebratory event to mark the tenth anniversary of the launch of the Digimap service. Digimap has become a widely recognised and used resource for many teachers and researchers throughout Higher and Further Education; the anniversary event showcased Digimap past, present and future, with a number of interesting speakers and exciting demonstrations.

Peter Burnhill, the Director of EDINA, opened the day with a brief history of the service and was followed by a joint presentation from JISC Collections and JISC on how Digimap fits into the JISC vision of resource provision. Under the title “Digimap Past and Present”, there were three very different presentations from Digimap users: firstly, the long view from John Moore, map librarian at the University of Glasgow, who has used Digimap since its inception as an eLib Programme project in 1996; secondly, an award-winning engineering undergraduate project presented by Dr Ian Ferguson of the University of Strathclyde; and thirdly the practical application of Digimap by a research scientist, Jonathan Radcliffe from the University of Cardiff.

After lunch, EDINA staff were on hand to give demonstrations of new and forthcoming developments within both the Digimap Collections and other EDINA geo-data services. The future of Digimap was presented and discussed in the afternoon session, beginning with an overview of what EDINA will be working on next, followed by a session discussing possibilities for the future of geospatial information delivery by all four Digimap data suppliers: Ordnance Survey, Landmark Information Group, SeaZone Ltd and British Geological Survey.

Finally, Vanessa Lawrence CB, Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey, gave a thought-provoking keynote address to celebrate ten years of collaboration between Ordnance Survey, JISC and EDINA.

The event finished, as all birthday parties should, with the cutting of a delicious birthday cake. We look forward to celebrating similar success in ten years’ time!

• Video footage and slideshow presentations from the event are now available for viewing and download:
   http://edina.ed.ac.uk/events/digimap10/

Forthcoming events:
http://edina.ac.uk/events

Training
EDINA Digimap's Ordnance Survey Collection: An introduction
24 March 2010, University of Surrey, Guildford
Guidance for Digimap Site Reps
7 April 2010, Nottingham, Bilborough College
Making maps in Digimap Collections
8 April 2010, Nottingham, Bilborough College
Downloading data from Digimap Collections
9 April 2010, Nottingham, Bilborough College
EDINA Digimap Training
4 May 2010, Coleg Powys Newtown
EDINA Multimedia Services
5 May 2010, Coleg Powys Newtown

Webinars
Geology Digimap
Wednesday 31 March 2010, 12:00-12:45pm

Conferences and Exhibitions
JISC Conference 2010
12-13 April 2010, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
UKSG 2010 Annual Conference and Exhibition
12-14 April, Edinburgh International Conference Centre
GISRUK 2010 (GIS Research UK)
14-16 April 2010, UCL, London
e-Journals are forever?: Preservation and Continuing Access to e-journal Content - A DPC, EDINA and JISC joint initiative.
RSC East Midlands e-fair 2010
22 June, Walkers Stadium, Leicester
RSC Northwest Annual Event 2010
22 June, Reebok Stadium, Bolton
RSC Eastern E-FAIR 2010
1 July, Hertford Regional College, Broxbourne

Staff news

David Medyckyj-Scott
David Medyckyj-Scott, manager of Research and Geodata Services at EDINA, has left to take up a new post in New Zealand.

David left EDINA in January 2010 in order to return to Landcare in New Zealand, whence he came some 13 years ago.

Goodbys were said at the EDINA Christmas party, but David’s formal departure date coincided with the 10th Anniversary celebration of Digimap as a JISC-funded service, at which event he was toasted again to note one of his lasting and significant achievements.

David ensured that a good eLib-funded project in 1996 turned into an innovative service, in January 2000 earning the AGI Technology Award. Digimap is now a collective noun as a platform for current Ordnance Survey, historical, hydrographic and geological mapping.

We wish David and his family every success and happiness. Although distant from our shores, we continue to work with him across the internet, helping to build a global base to the e-Infrastructure, assured that he has helped EDINA and the UK lay the basis and promise of an academic spatial data infrastructure.

Sheila Fraser
Sheila began work for EDINA in March as projects and services manager on the Bibliographic and Multimedia team. Initially she will be involved in the VSM Portal and other multimedia projects.

Sheila previously worked as an IT and management consultant for commercial clients, and latterly for non-profit clients, primarily in Africa. Her previous work included systems architecture, design and build, programme and project management, and business and process optimisation.