Jorum launches new look and improved search tool

The new look to the Jorum website went live in September, with its official launch at the ALT-C conference. The redesign puts content up-front and evident for the user.

- www.jorum.ac.uk

This follows on from the launch of the JorumOpen collection in January and successful deposit of over 10,000 downloadable learning resources during the year so far.

The website puts the emphasis on the three key Jorum verbs: Find, Share and Discuss:

Find: There are thousands of learning and teaching resources in Jorum, including Open Educational Resources (OER) that are freely available to anyone, worldwide.

Share: Jorum enables you to share resources. Resources can be deposited in either JorumUK or the JorumOpen collections, allowing you to choose to share within the UK or worldwide.

Discuss: Anyone can start or join the discussion about using and creating resources.

Improved search tool

Not only is the content more prominent but users can now use a simple search box to find learning materials in both the JorumOpen and JorumUK collections.

This is released as Beta as we are still developing some additional features, and we will value all feedback and comment – using the feedback form or on the Jorum Community Bay.

Search results can be filtered, sorted by date, title or relevance ranking – alongside use of RSS feeds based on search criteria. Tagged keywords can be used to assist further exploration of the rich content in Jorum.

OpenDepot.org goes global

The Depot has changed and gone global. Following a successful period of redevelopment, EDINA has relaunched its Open Access repository system as OpenDepot.org, for use by researchers worldwide.

Previously, due to project funding constraints, only UK-based researchers could deposit their research in the Depot. Now we have removed this barrier so researchers worldwide can benefit.

We have transferred all existing data from the Depot service to OpenDepot.org. All URLs now automatically redirect, and existing user details (username, password etc.) have also been transferred so there has been no break in continuity.

We also took the opportunity to upgrade the repository software so users would benefit from an improved service. The launch was timed to coincide with the Repository Fringe 2010 event held in Edinburgh on 2–3 September (see page 4 for a report on that event), and is our contribution to the forthcoming Open Access Week on 18–24 October.

- opendepot.org
Comparing historical maps using Ancient Roam

Ancient Roam, a facility in Historic Digimap, now allows users to compare two historical maps of the same location from different decades, side by side. Using the 2up View users can view a location and easily see how the landscape has changed over time. For example, comparing historical maps reveals the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the more recent decline of industry on the urban landscape of towns and cities across the country. (See the accompanying screenshot.)

2up View is easily accessed by clicking the icon in the top right of the main map window. This will load two maps side by side in two smaller map windows. You can then select the decades you wish to view using the two independent time-lines. Panning and zooming is available in the 2up View, allowing one to easily move around or change locations and to see greater or lesser detail.

Ancient Roam, launched in April 2010 in beta phase, provides quick and easy access to a wide range of historical Ordnance Survey maps and has proven extremely popular, with over 300,000 screen maps being created in four months. Beautifully detailed maps dating from the 1840s – 1990s from Ordnance Survey’s County Series, National Grid and Town Plan mapping can be accessed at a range of scales and dates. Historical maps can be viewed online and printed for use in dissertations, coursework and teaching.

Ancient Roam became a full service after the annual Digimap update on 31 August. Historic Mapper, which has been serving historical maps since the launch of the Historic Digimap Collection, will be removed at the end of 2010. Until this time, both Historic Mapper and Ancient Roam will run in parallel.

• Historic Digimap:
edina.ac.uk/digimap

Digimap OpenStream to deliver OS OpenData

EDINA is working on the release of Digimap OpenStream – a web service delivering OS OpenData to the UK academic sector using open standard WMS technology. Digimap OpenStream will be an EDINA Digimap value-added service freely available to the academic community. Access will not be restricted to registered Digimap users, although a one-off online registration will be required. The OS OpenData offered will be accessible 24/7 and users will be able to embed it into their own application software without the overheads of downloading and managing large quantities of data.

Digimap OpenStream will provide access to the following OS OpenData products:

• MiniScale®
• 1:250 000 Scale Colour Raster
• OS Vector Map™ District (Raster)
• OS Street View®

Details of the Application Programming Interface (API) will be provided along with simple guides illustrating how to use the service within popular GIS software.

Full details of the Terms and Conditions of Use can be found now at openstream.edina.ac.uk/terms

Digimap OpenStream will be publicly available from mid-October 2010.
New JISC multimedia service in development

Early next year, the initial version of a new JISC multimedia service will be available from EDINA. Under the working title of Mediahub, the service will combine the collections included in the existing JISC-funded services – Film & Sound Online and NewsFilm Online – as well as the moving and still-image collections from the JISC Digital Images for Education (DIE) project. Education Image Gallery will offer the DIE still-image collections from October. Mediahub will also cross-search external collections in the same way as the JISC Visual and Sound Materials Portal Demonstrator at EDINA.

Support staff at institutions subscribing to Education Image Gallery, Film & Sound Online and NewsFilm Online have already been informed of the key information relating to this development, and a blog is now available to inform a wider audience, including end-users, of Mediahub developments over the coming months.

- Mediahub blog: mediahub.blogs.edina.ac.uk
- Digital Images for Education: imagesforeducation.org.uk
- Visual and Sound Materials Portal Demonstrator: vsm.edina.ac.uk/vsm/vsm.asp

Education Image Gallery content to change

From October the Getty images in the existing Education Image Gallery service will be replaced by the still-image collections from the JISC Digital Images for Education (DIE) project, selected from the following holdings: Fitzwilliam Museum; Getty Images; GovEd; Imperial War Museum; North Highland College; Photographic Youth Music Culture Archive; Royal Geographical Society; University of Brighton.

From early 2011, these collections will become part of the JISC multimedia service, provisionally titled Mediahub.

For new subscribers to this interim service, details and rates are available from JISC Collections.

- JISC Collections: www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/Catalogue/Overview/Index/30
- Digital Images for Education: imagesforeducation.org.uk

Digimap Mobile Scoping Study Final Report

As part of the Digimap Service Enhancement programme for 2009–10, JISC funded EDINA to undertake a study to investigate delivering Digimap data and services to mobile platforms.

The final report highlights the findings of the project and our recommendations for further enhancements.

The report concludes:

“The Mobile Web approach is the best medium term option for rolling out the Digimap service for mobile.... At the end of this project EDINA is in a much stronger position both in its technical capability and in its links to the academic community to invest in delivering mobile based content in a way that will address the community's needs...”

Comments are welcome either on the Geo-Mobile blog or to us directly via edina@ed.ac.uk

- Digimap - Alternative Access Scoping Study - Mobile project summary page: edina.ac.uk/projects/geomobile_summary.html
- Geo-Mobile Blog: mobilegeo.wordpress.com

ShareGeo Open - free geodata

ShareGeo, a data sharing repository previously accessible only through EDINA Digimap, is now also available for all to use as ShareGeo Open. The website went live and public on 1 September 2010.

ShareGeo Open, funded by JISC, is a spatial data repository that promotes data sharing between creators and users of spatial data. Researchers, students and lecturers at UK HE and FE institutions creating geospatial data can deposit their research and operational data there for anyone to download and use.

In Spring 2010 the UK government made a significant number of datasets freely available to the general public. This included many core datasets held by the Office of National Statistics, Central Government and Ordnance Survey. The availability of national coverage core data licensed under Creative Commons creates a framework to permit the sharing of derived data. ShareGeo Open provides the infrastructure to enable that derived data sharing.

ShareGeo within Digimap continues to provide a place for the sharing and re-use of derived geospatial datasets within the Digimap service under the JISC Collections licensing arrangements.

- www.sharegeo.ac.uk

SUNCAT expands

SUNCAT has added the serials holdings of seven new libraries during Spring/Summer 2010. The institutions involved include a mixture of HE and specialist libraries. There is now a total of 77 contributing libraries, plus the CONSER database, the ISSN register and the Directory of Open Access Journals.

The seven recently added libraries are as follows:

- Aberystwth University Library: currently contributing over 37,000 serial records
- Kingston University Library: currently contributing over 34,000 serial records
- Loughborough University library: currently contributing around 19,000 serial records
- University of the Arts London: currently contributing around 12,500 serial records
- The Wiener Library – Institute of Contemporary History: one of the world’s leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust and Nazi era. The serials collection comprises over 3,000 titles
- The Tate Library, Tate Britain: holds around 2,000 journal titles, of which around 400 are current subscriptions
- The British Film Institute (BFI): currently contributing around 5,000 serial records from the BFI National Library

SUNCAT will continue to add new libraries throughout the remainder of 2010.

- Full list of Contributing Libraries: www.suncat.ac.uk/description/contributing_libraries.html
- Further information about SUNCAT: www.suncat.ac.uk
RepoFringe 2010 – Event report

The third Repository Fringe, organised by staff from EDINA, the ERIS project, the University of Edinburgh and the Digital Curation Centre, took place on 2–3 September at the National eScience Centre in Edinburgh.

Around 90 people attended two days of excellent talks, Pecha Kucha and Round Table discussions on all things repository related.

Repository Fringe 2010 was opened by Sheila Cannell, Director of Library Services for the University of Edinburgh, who welcomed the keynote from Tony Hirst of the Open University. Tony gave an inspiring and original view of repositories, mashups and the concept of documents as databases. Later Herbert Van de Sompel of Los Alamos National Laboratory spoke about the Memento project – which is enabling a form of “time travel” for the web – and, after a lively series of Round Table discussions, Dave Tarrant of University of Southampton demonstrated the new EPrints Bazaar. The first day closed with a networking session, followed by various impromptu outings to restaurants and pubs throughout the city.

On day two Chris Awre of the University of Hull spoke about the work and experiences of the Hydra project to build a flexible repository around Fedora 3.x. Round Table discussions in the late morning included Linking Articles to Research Data, Re-imagining Learning and Teaching Repositories and a meeting of the UK Metadata Forum.

Michael Fourman of the University of Edinburgh opened the afternoon with his presentation on Topic Models and related ways in which to computationally understand and organise digital text, providing another way to find items of a similar topic. Finally Kevin Ashley, Director of the Digital Curation Centre, gave the closing presentation, elegantly drawing together the themes of preceding presentations.

The Repository Fringe event was discussed via a lively Twitter hashtag (#rfringe10) and the official live blog which are both available to read and comment on (see link below). Videos and presentations have now been added to the Repository Fringe website so even those who were unable to attend should be able to get a good idea of what was shared and discussed.

• Repository Fringe: www.repositoryfringe.org

LOCKSS call for 2010–11 participation

The UK LOCKSS Alliance is inviting new members for the 2010–11 academic year.

Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe (LOCKSS) is an international initiative to ensure libraries remain central to the process of scholarly information management. The UK LOCKSS Alliance (UKLA), a membership organisation, and JISC Collections have issued a Call for Participation to senior figures at UK HE libraries.

LOCKSS provides libraries with the tools and support to easily and inexpensively take custody of the e-journal content for which they have paid; to build – not simply lease – local collections of the scholarly material their readers care most about.

LOCKSS provides libraries with guaranteed continuing access to e-journal content, without affecting the daily relationship between library and publisher.

Participation and Subscription Details

• Pricing details can be found at the JISC Collections website. The membership fees for 2010-11 are being held at the 2009-10 rates. www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/Catalogue/Overview/Index/879

• More information about UKLA can be found at the EDINA website. edina.ac.uk/lockss/

• More on this Call for Participation, including stories about LOCKSS success from UK HE Librarians: tinyurl.com/LOCKSS-CFP

Forthcoming events:
edina.ac.uk/events

Training

Some new training courses and webinars on Digimap Collections have been posted on the EDINA events page.

Training courses are open to staff, postgraduate students and researchers. Our webinars are available to any Digimap user, whether staff, student or researcher.

Should the dates or content of our training courses or webinars not be quite right for you, we will happily discuss alternatives tailored to your needs. We can discuss the possibility of training courses at your college or university, or set up webinars for your colleagues and/or students.

You can contact us to discuss your training needs via the EDINA Helpdesk or you can call our Training Officer, Vivienne Carr, on 0131 651 1852.

Conferences

The future of research? JISC/Universities UK conference
19 October 2010, Congress Centre, London www.jisc.ac.uk/events/2010/10/futureofresearch.aspx

Online Information 2010
30 Nov – 2 Dec 2010, Olympia, London www.online-information.co.uk/index.html