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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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Digimap goes to school

Ordnance Survey and JISC Collections have been keen that the benefits of Digimap are made available to teachers in UK schools. EDINA has responded by developing a new service, **Digimap for Schools**, launched at Graveney School in Wandsworth, London on 10 November by Vanessa Lawrence, the Director General & CEO of Ordnance Survey, supporting Baroness Joan Hanham, the Minister with oversight for OS as national mapping agency.

By the end of November, over 1,400 schools had signed up to gain access online to OS digital mapping, including the popular Landranger and Explorer maps as well as the more detailed OS MasterMap mapping.

The aim now is to investigate how to develop Digimap for Schools so that it can support school teaching at all levels across the curriculum.

We hope to engage the interest of both student teachers and

researchers into school teaching, as the higher and further education sector contributes to the success of the schools sector. Offers of help are invited.

Further information about the service is available from the Digimap for Schools website and about subscriptions from the JISC Collections for Schools website:

- digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk
- www.jcs.nen.gov.uk



Teacher demonstrating Digimap for Schools at the launch event. © Ordnance Survey

Marine Roam charts new waters

Marine Roam is a new facility within Digimap Marine that provides a simple mapping interface to SeaZone's Hydrospatial data, giving access to detailed offshore information around the coast of the UK. Hydrospatial data has not previously been available as part of an online mapping application; we at EDINA believe this is a unique facility.

Marine Roam allows users to display, customise and print the majority of the data at a number of fixed scales. Fixed zoom levels ranging from approximately 1:2,500 to 1:6 million are available and the map content is customisable to allow selection of features required for a particular purpose. The

Hydrospatial data is so rich that a series of 'base maps' have been pre-rendered, one for each scale, to improve the usability of the maps.

Marine Roam is available now, adding to the suite of existing applications in Marine Digimap, which also contains scanned and georeferenced marine maps at scales ranging from 1:3.5 million to 1:2,500 available for making maps online or for download. The Hydrospatial vector data provided in Marine Roam, containing a huge range of themes covering all aspects of marine spatial information, is also available for download using a separate facility.

Free trials are also available; please contact the EDINA Helpdesk for further information.

- Marine Digimap: edina.ac.uk/digimap

JorumOpen: Better preview and editing

In response to feedback received in a recent user survey, enhanced features have been added to the JorumOpen collection. The changes comprise the following three key features:

Better previewing of content packages

When viewing a content package, the user will see that how the item displays has been tidied up, and the package reorganised to make it easier to view. Previously the user was faced with a complete list of files within the package; now the resource displays as originally intended.

Improved resource editing

JorumOpen now allows users to edit and delete the resources they have shared. Users can add new files to resources, delete individual files within a resource, or delete the whole resource.

JorumOpen does not currently offer version control, so once a resource is deleted, it will be removed. If users wish to create a new version of a resource (for a new academic year, for example), they should deposit the new version of the resource separately. Remember: there may still be other users who want to use the previous version.

Simplified download options

Exporting or previewing resources is now a simple task, with only two buttons to choose from - 'Package Download', or 'Package Preview'.

The screenshot shows a resource page titled 'Practising thinking skills'. It includes a 'Show full item record' link, social sharing icons, and a metadata section with the following details:

- Title:** Practising thinking skills
- Author:** Philippa Goldsmith; UCLAN; EVOLVE
- Description:** A learning activity about the use of parallel thinking using De Bono's 6 thinking hats
- Keywords:** Thinking Skills; Thinking Hats; Ideas; Idea Organisation
- Persistent Link:** <http://open.jorum.ac.uk:80/xmlui/handle/123456789/11300>
- Date:** 2010-11-04

Below the metadata are two prominent buttons: 'Package Download' and 'Package Preview'. A Creative Commons license note is also visible: 'This item is licensed under a Creative Commons licence. By clicking on any of the above buttons(s) you agree to follow the terms of that licence.'

At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Files in this item' with a table listing files:

Files	Size	Format	View
adcp_v1p3.xml	2.763Kb	Unknown	View Download

'Package Download' makes the full IMS content package, compatible for use in a VLE, available from an email link.

The 'Package Download' button is visible when viewing web links. The download includes all the relevant links and attached metadata.

'Package Preview' allows users to preview the resource before downloading.

The Jorum team hope that these new features will make previewing and sharing resources in JorumOpen a much more user-friendly experience.

- Jorum: orum.ac.uk

Scoping study: Aggregating image, film & sound metadata

JISC recently funded EDINA to undertake a short (three-month) study to scope the feasibility, viability and value of creating an aggregation of metadata about images and time-based media, i.e. collections of information about digital resources, rather than collections of digital resources themselves.

The final report is now available and indicates benefits of, the opportunities for, aggregations of metadata describing images and time-based media, and the barriers to having open and shareable metadata for these resources. It also describes a number of scenarios in which such aggregations would be useful or required, and different models for aggregating metadata.

The team would like to thank all participants in the consultation process for their time and expertise. To enable further opportunity for contribution from the wide range of stakeholders, feedback on this report is encouraged as part of the consultation exercise. Comments are welcome on the blog linked to below.

- Full report: mass.blogs.edina.ac.uk
- Further information: edina.ac.uk/projects/Aggregations_Scoping_summary.html

The sounds of Scotland

A high-profile event on 9 December at the University of Edinburgh's School of Informatics, attended by Fiona Hyslop, Scotland's Minister for Culture & External Affairs, provided the public launch of a major online oral archive, with which EDINA has had a long association.

Tobar an Dualchais makes available more than 15,000 recordings from Scotland's past.

The recordings, from all parts of the country and some dating back more than eight decades, are drawn from the archives of the School of Scottish Studies, the BBC and the National Trust for Scotland's Canna Collection.

EDINA has been involved with the Heritage Lottery Fund project that created the archive since the project's inception, initially designing a Production Control Application and a Cataloguing Application (for web-based input of metadata) and subsequently designing and developing the Tobar an Dualchais archive website.

Project Chair and musician Donnie Munro says the new website will open up Scotland's past as never before:

"This is the most ambitious cultural digital heritage project anywhere in Europe if not the world. A visit to the website will be like talking to those who walked, talked, lived and worked decades ago.

"You will hear the real voices of mill-workers, fishermen, crofters, travellers and farm workers talking in their own language, be that Gaelic, Doric, Scots or the rich dialect of the Northern Isles.

"Renowned Scots and Gaelic singers and musicians feature on the website including Jeannie Robertson, Willie Scott, Lucy Stewart, Flora MacNeil and Joan MacKenzie. Well-known performers such as Barbara Dickson, Dick Gaughan, Archie Fisher and Norman Maclean can also be found."

- Tobar an Dualchais: www.tobarandualchais.co.uk

News in brief

Mediahub: first look

This is the initial design of the Mediahub user interface, a guide to which is on the blog, mediahub.blogs.edina.ac.uk. The design is likely to evolve in response to user testing being conducted prior to release of the first version of the service in early 2011.



AGI Awards - Digimap Highly Commended

EDINA has received a Highly Commended mention at the annual Association for Geographic Information (AGI) Awards for Innovation and Best Practice.

EDINA was entered in the Innovation and Best Practice (Charitable Status) category based on the presentation given at GeoCommunity 2010 by Tim Riley on migrating Digimap to a new GIS infrastructure.

Tim also authored a paper on the same subject.

Digimap: 10 Years Old and yet Brand New:

- Presentation: prezi.com/vkvs1wzxtkzr/digimap-10-years-old-and-yet-brand-new-migration-to-a-new-gis-platform/
- Paper: assgeoinf.squarespace.com/storage/geocommunity/papers/TimRiley.pdf

Photos in Geology Roam

Geology Roam, the latest mapping service in Geology Digimap, now has a new feature allowing users to access over 3,000 photographs of geological locations. The photographs are accessed from the maps by activating a layer of markers. Simply clicking on the markers allows users to access the images, complete with details of what is shown.

- Geology Digimap: <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/description/bgsoverview.shtml>

Trinity College Dublin - the latest library added to SUNCAT

Trinity College Dublin, the largest research library in Ireland, is the eighth new SUNCAT Contributing Library to be added in 2010 and is contributing around 180,000 serial records.

This brings the total to 78 research and university libraries contributing to SUNCAT as the UK national union catalogue of serials, with information on holdings and links to articles via electronic tables of contents (eToCs) and to SCOUNL Access.

SUNCAT now has serials information from all the UK and Irish Legal Deposit Libraries, which also include the UK National Libraries, Cambridge University Library and the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford, plus the CONSER database, the ISSN register and the Directory of Open Access Journals.

- Full list of Contributing Libraries: www.sunecat.ac.uk/description/contributing_libraries.html
- Further information: www.sunecat.ac.uk

Go-Geo! latest metadata newsletter

The Autumn/Winter 2010 edition of Metadata News is available to read online or download. This is a useful reference to use for lecturers teaching GIS courses.

- Go-Geo!: www.gogeo.ac.uk
- Newsletter: www.gogeo.ac.uk/files/mdnletter/current.pdf

Chalice project helping to create digital historical gazetteer

The Connecting Historical Authorities with Linked Data, Contexts and Entities (**Chalice**) project is helping to create a digital gazetteer of historical place names covering a thousand years of recorded history.

The Language Technology Group at the University of Edinburgh, who are collaborating with EDINA's **Unlock Text** place name text mining service, are building text mining tools to extract structured data from volumes of the English Place Name Survey, a rich resource of historical place name scholarship published by the Institute for Name Studies at the University of Nottingham.

The data includes all known historical spellings of the place name as recorded by the Survey, along with the dates when the names were found in different documentary sources. The corrected digitised text has been created by the Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis at Queen's University, Belfast.

At EDINA we're converting the extracted data into Linked Data, making it available in a machine-readable form and extending it with links to contemporary place name gazetteers. We're also investigating ways to enrich different historical archival collections with place names and locations – linking resources together through shared references to geography.

Our partners at the Centre for e-Research at King's College London are helping us to develop use cases for the data produced during Chalice, working on detailed studies on enriching different historical collections with place name references.

- Chalice blog: chalice.blogs.edina.ac.uk
- Further Information: edina.ac.uk/projects/chalice_summary.html

AddressingHistory launch

AddressingHistory, a new EDINA 'crowdsourcing tool' connecting historical Scottish Post Office Directories to digitised maps from the same era, was launched on Wednesday 17 November at an amplified event at the National Library of Scotland.

The launch event provided an opportunity to celebrate Scottish history and to meet in person many of the local history and genealogy experts, community groups and bloggers with whom AddressingHistory has been in contact throughout the six-month JISC-funded project.

Presentations were given on a wide variety of Scottish history and genealogy tools including historical post office directories, the Statistical Accounts of Scotland, NLS digitised mapping projects, the Visualising Urban Geography project, Tobar an Dualchais (see page 2 in this edition of Newsline), in addition to the digitisation programmes being undertaken by the NLS and the Internet Archive, thus providing an insight into the possibilities that new technology offers for exploring Scotland's past.

Stuart Macdonald and Nicola Osborne, both of EDINA, gave an overview of the work that had been undertaken to convert digitised trade directories into a geo-referenced database which facilitates both browsing and editing and concluded their presentation by launching the AddressingHistory tool and API.

A key element to the success of the project to date has been the use of social media to engage with communities. Having embedded blogging, tweeting and online engagement throughout the AddressingHistory project, it was encouraging to see our launch attendees tweeting (on the event's Twitter hashtag #AHLlaunch), videoing and blogging the event out to the wider Scottish history and genealogy communities online. An edited version of the live event blog and videos of the presentations are now available on the project blog.

AddressingHistory is an open website, which can be accessed by all.

The project team welcomes any feedback on the project or the website: addressing.history@ed.ac.uk

- AddressingHistory: addressinghistory.edina.ac.uk
- Service blog: addressinghistory.blogs.edina.ac.uk
- Statistical Accounts of Scotland: edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/



Professor Robert Morris holding punch card versions of the historical Post Office directories. Photo by AddressingHistory

New staff



Nik Pardoe

Nik has worked for The University of Edinburgh since 2003. As Small Systems Officer at EDINA, he provides support, advice and guidance in the use of desktop machines and office systems to all EDINA staff.



Neil Mayo

Neil has worked in programming roles for the last ten years, mainly supporting text-processing and digitisation projects. At EDINA, he is working on UK LOCKSS.

Forthcoming events:

edina.ac.uk/events

Training

An updated schedule for 2011 will be published shortly. In the meantime please contact us if you are interested in arranging a workshop or webinar.

Conferences

MeCCSA 2011

12-14 January 2011

www.meccsa2011.org.uk/

The Lowry, Salford Quays

JISC Conference 2011

14-15 March 2011

www.jisc.ac.uk/events/2011/03/jisc11.aspx

BT Convention Centre, Liverpool

Tell us what you think: User satisfaction surveys

We are currently conducting user satisfaction surveys and would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to answer some questions about your usage and experience of a selection of our services:

- SUNCAT
- Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection
- Geology Digimap
- Historic Digimap
- Marine Digimap
- Go-Geo!
- GeoDoc

We would not only appreciate your comments but also encourage you to circulate the survey details as widely as possible, both to library staff and end-users. We value all responses, and feedback will be used to develop the services to better meet user needs and expectations.

Links to all the surveys can be found at edina.ac.uk/surveys/