2012: A good year for repositories

This year is proving to be a very interesting one for Open Repositories and for the support that EDINA is providing to their success. Repositories are now an important means for academic outcomes to be made available more widely from universities and colleges: they are central to the Open Access agenda that is changing the nature of scholarly communication and they play a supporting role for research reporting.

The 7th International Conference on Open Repositories, OR2012, is being hosted at the University of Edinburgh this year from 9–13 July, with EDINA co-organising. The programme has been published and registrations are exceeding expectations.

- OR2012: or2012.ed.ac.uk/programme/
- OR2012 will provide a showcase for the UK RepositoryNet+ (RepNet) project.

Having invested in a succession of projects to foster institutional capacity and the production of tools and facilities, JISC wishes to establish a socio-technical infrastructure and curation service to assist managers of institutional repositories in their tasks, sustain universities in moving towards Open Access and support improvement in research information management. The task of bringing that to fruition has been given to the RepNet project at EDINA.

The set-up phase is now complete, and the project will be in the “build and launch” phase until March 2013. This includes collaborating with UKOLN, who are to manage a related “Innovation Zone”.

Working with JISC Innovation, the project team made contact with the key providers of service components, and OR2012 will also provide an opportunity to launch services from the first wave of funding by JISC. A team based at the University of Nottingham will contribute with information on funders’ and publishers’ policies through the RoMEO and JULIET databases; EDINA will assist deposit into institutional repositories with the Repository-Junction Broker (RJB) and Organisation and Repository Identification (ORI) services (see below); and Mimas will provide benchmarking and reporting functionality through the development of Institutional Repository Usage Statistics (IRUS-UK) from demonstrator to a full service.

- UK RepositoryNet+: www.repositorynet.ac.uk/

New projects to support Open Repositories

EDINA’s contribution to RepNet is based on the Open Access Repository Junction (OA-RJ) project outcomes. Two independent tools will be developed as separate projects from the discovery and delivery functionality of the OA-RJ.

The Organisation and Repositories Identification (ORI) project will design a middleware tool for identifying academic organisations and their associated repositories. It will harvest data from several authoritative sources in order to provide information on over 23,000 organisations and 3,000 repositories worldwide. APIs will be provided to query the harvested content.

The Repository Junction Broker (RJB) project will deliver a middleware tool for handling the deposit of Open Access research articles to multiple subject and institutional repositories.

The RJB Broker will parse the metadata of an article to determine the appropriate target repositories and transfer the publication to the registered repositories. It is intended to minimise efforts on behalf of potential depositors, and thereby maximise distribution and exposure of research outputs.

The RJB Broker project has been funded for a year as part of the phase one development of UK Repository Net+. The ORI project was awarded six months’ funding.

- ORI: edina.ac.uk/projects/ORI_summary.html
- RJ Broker: edina.ac.uk/projects/RJB_summary.html
Cartogrammar maps help display data

A “cartogram” is a map on which statistical information is shown in diagrammatic form. It attempts to convey a general sense of geography in addition to one or more other important statistical elements. The primary concern is with accurately portraying a unique data set, while secondarily doing the best it can to stay true to geographic accuracy.

Cartogram creation tends to use complex tools, often needing specialist knowledge, and can demand a significant computational overhead.

The Cartogrammar project, funded by ESRC, attempts to break down some of the barriers in the creation and use of cartograms.

This project aims to create a production-strength service and associated toolset for the benefit of a broad social science audience. It will develop an open web service, a supporting website gallery and tools that will allow social scientists to create, share and reuse bespoke cartograms.

The website will use a ‘wizard’ to handle the uploading of user supplied data (a shapefile), and the gathering of the information required to produce the cartogram itself. It will also host the gallery of user contributed cartograms so that these can be showcased and reused.

It is intended that Cartogrammar will be demonstrated at the ESRC booth at the NCRM Methods Festival in July of 2012.

• Cartogrammar: edina.ac.uk/projects/cartogrammar_summary.html

Tools and enhancements for Digimap for Schools

On 4 April, EDINA released Version 3 of Digimap for Schools, which included a number of new features and enhancements.

National Grid lines overlay – Allows users to display National Grid lines on screen, over any map at any scale. Grid letters and numbers are displayed clearly, spacing and numbering is scale appropriate and automatically change as a user zooms in or out through the map views. To view the National Grid line, simply click the button on the toolbar.

View a bigger map – A full-screen option that hides the top, bottom and left-hand panels to enlarge the visible map area that is visible. The top toolbar will still be visible to allow you to access the annotations, measuring and other tools. Expanding the map is particularly effective when teaching a class using a smartboard. To toggle between the larger and smaller maps, click the button in the top right of the toolbar (beside the Help icon)

EDINA values your feedback on Digimap for Schools; please send any comments, suggestions or queries regarding the new tools or any other feature of Digimap for Schools to edina@ed.ac.uk.

• Digimap for Schools: digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk

EDINA in team for English place names exploration

Place names form such a ubiquitous and persistent part of our social and cultural landscape that it is easy to forget that they are themselves complex units of information with rich heritages. They contain hidden stories of language, history and culture, which can sometimes be discerned relatively easily, but which more often require specialist knowledge of history and linguistics to be unlocked.

Since 1923, the English Place Name Society (EPNS) has researched, gathered and edited this knowledge, and published it in the form of 87 volumes as the Survey of English Place-names. These volumes are now being digitised by the JISC-funded Digital Exposure of English Place-names (DEEP) project, a consortium of the Centre for e-Research, Kings College London; EDINA and Language Technology Group (LTG), University of Edinburgh; Centre for Data Digitization and Analysis (CDDA), Queen’s University Belfast; Institute for Name-Studies (INS), University of Nottingham. Individual historic names and information about them are being identified by automated language processing, rendered in XML and mapped to a metadata schema.

A key output will be a gazetteer for EDINA’s Unlock web service, which will allow scholars to use Unlock’s functionality to locate any historic name that the EPNS’s research has found in any digital text. The hidden stories of England’s place names will come a step closer to being available to all.

• DEEP: www.kcl.ac.uk/innovation/groups/cerch/research/projects/current/deep.aspx
Keepers Registry extends

New member: Chinese Academy of Sciences

The National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSLC) has joined other leading archiving organisations in the Keepers Registry, the international facility that records who is looking after the world’s e-journal content, bringing the current number of participating institutions to seven.

Established in 1949, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is a leading academic institution: a comprehensive research and development centre in natural sciences, technological science and high-tech innovation in China.

Project Co-Directors Peter Burnhill (EDINA) and Françoise Pelle said, “We are very pleased to welcome the National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences into the Keepers Registry, as a sign of their commitment and enthusiasm to help the library community globally.”

The National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSLC) is the public library service system of CAS. Learn more at english.las.cas.cn

ONIX for Preservation Holdings draft standard now available

A working group comprised of staff at EDINA, EDItEUR, publishers, and archiving organisations participating in the Keepers Registry have extended the ONIX for Serials format. Version 0.21 of the ONIX for Preservation Holdings (ONIX-PH) standard is now available. It is planned that ONIX-PH will be used for the transmission of metadata from participating keepers to EDINA for ingest into the Keepers Registry.

• The Keepers Registry: thekeepers.org

Research data service offers new online training course

The Research Data Management Training (MANTRA) course is an open, online training course intended for self-paced learning by PhD students and researchers in the initial stages of their research careers, or by anyone interested in learning more about research data management, an issue gaining prominence in the research policy arena.

MANTRA has recently moved from project to service status, and is a featured resource in Jorum and a linked service on the EDINA home page.

Edinburgh University Data Library has made a commitment to ensure that the online hosted course remains up-to-date and fit-for-purpose, and that future versions are deposited in Jorum for community use as well being made available on the MANTRA website.

MANTRA was initially funded by the JISC Managing Research Data Programme (2010-11).

• Introducing the Research Data Management Training Course (MANTRA): jorum.ac.uk/blog/post/29/guest-blog-post-introducing-the-research-data-management-training-course-m mantra
• Work online: datalib.edina.ac.uk/mant ra/
• Download from Jorum: dspace.jorum.ac.uk/smlui/ handle/123456789/16055

EDINA impact videos: introduction to key services

We have recently completed further video introductions to key EDINA services, covering the Statistical Accounts of Scotland, UK LOCKSS Alliance and Unlock. They join those we produced last year on Digimap, GoGeo and SUNCAT.

Each video represents an interview with an EDINA expert who explains the basic aspects of each service, before explaining the potential benefits and impact they make. You can watch the videos on the EDINA Impact page as well as on the EDINA YouTube channel.

We intend to produce similar videos for other services and projects later this year. In the meantime we welcome feedback by email to edina@ed.ac.uk or as comments on the YouTube pages. Transcripts of the videos are also available.

• EDINA Impact: edina.ac.uk/impact

Latest EDINA documents

Several EDINA documents have been updated since the last edition of Newsline:

Community Report March 2012:
EDINA’s latest Community Report provides an overview of all our activity. edina.ac.uk/about/docs.html

Digimap Newsletter:
The inaugural edition of the Digimap Newsletter rounds up all the relevant news and events. edina.ac.uk/digimap/newsletters/march2012.html

UKLA roundup:
The June 2012 roundup from the UK LOCKSS Alliance support service highlights ongoing system and content development. www.lockssalliance.ac.uk/2012/06/06/ukla-roundup-june-2012/

SUNCAT - Benefits and impact survey report:
A report of the latest SUNCAT Benefits and Impact Survey is now available on the SUNCAT website. www.suncat.ac.uk/
Will’s World: There’s an app for that!

As part of our work on the JISC-funded Shakespeare Registry, Will’s World provided data around the text of Macbeth to the Culture Hack Scotland (CHS) event at SocietyM in Glasgow on 27–28 April.

Will’s World aims to demonstrate the value and principles of aggregation by assembling metadata and APIs to online data sources relating to the life, times and work of William Shakespeare. These are made available to developers to enable them to create new and imaginative applications with the data.

Developments on the Registry itself are still on-going. Therefore only a subset of data was made available, the centrepiece being a marked-up text of Macbeth, including characters and locations, using EDINA’s Unlock web service. Additional metadata from the Statistical Accounts of Scotland and JISC MediaHub services were also made available to enable CHS participants to connect the play to related resources, such as historical notes on counties mentioned in the text, or video recordings of key performances.

Three teams at the event chose to work with Will’s World data and produced impressive and imaginative applications. One team focused on the emotions of the text, one built an interactive game and one looked at how Macbeth and social media could be combined. The Shakeyapp team were awarded winner of Culture Hack Scotland for Shakey: a Massively Multiplayer, Real Time, Macbeth Parlour game.

Mobile/computer users can join in the game and take part in the production either as an actor in the play or as a member of the audience. People’s Twitter avatars are included in the stage production. Cast members are prompted to recite the text and the audience can either throw virtual flowers or tomatoes to show their like or dislike. The result was creative and entertaining, and a worthy winner of the top prize.

This provided very positive feedback to Will’s World. Considering that only a fraction of the resources that can be added to the Shakespeare Registry were used, it emphatically demonstrates the potential for aggregation and creative use.

Resources used at CultureHack are available at edina.ac.uk/events/culturehack/shakespeare.html, including the Macbeth chapter from Asimov’s Guide to Shakespeare, which we didn’t have time to make available for the event itself.

- Will’s World Blog: willsworld.blogs.edina.ac.uk
- Culture Hack Scotland 2012: www.welcometosync.com/hack/

New Staff

Sandy Buchanan
My background is IT/Collections Management in the cultural sector. I was Operations Manager at Scran, more recently general project management. I’m currently Project Manager in the Geo section working on Cartogrammar and Cloud Workbench.

Matt Cuthbert
I have joined as a software developer with EDINA Digimap. I previously did contract work in the world of life insurance, after several years working at BT.

Dorothy Graves McEwan
I have worked as software user support and trainer in the private sector for the past 2.5 years. At EDINA I’m taking up the new Geo-Data User Support Officer position.

Muriel Mewissen
I am involved with Will’s World, ORI/RJ Broker, OpenURL Router and the SUNCAT strand of DiscoverEDINA, all as Project Manager. Previously, I worked for the Division of Pathway Medicine in the UoE Medical School as a software engineer and Project Manager.

Forthcoming Events

edina.ac.uk/events

Geoforum: Digimap Site Representative Forum: Booking now open!
20 June 2012, National Railway Museum, York
edina.ac.uk/events/geoforum2012/

JISC RSC East Midlands e-fair 2012
21 June 2012, East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham
www.jiscrsc.ac.uk/eastmidlands/events/2012/jun/rsc-east-midlands-e-fair-2012-on-with-the-%28r%29evolution.aspx

RSC NW Annual Event - All the Fun of the (technology) Fair
27 June 2012, Southport Theatre Convention Centre
www.jiscrsc.ac.uk/northwest/events/2012/june/annual-event-2012.aspx

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference
3 - 5 July 2012, University of Edinburgh
www.rgs.org/AC2012

The e-Lympics; JISC RSC Eastern e-Fair 2012
5 July 2012, West Herts College, Watford, Hertfordshire
info.rsc-eastern.ac.uk/events/event_details.asp?eid=1024

Seventh International Conference on Open Repositories (OR2012)
9 - 13 July 2012, University of Edinburgh
or2012.blogs.edina.ac.uk/