EDINA web site developments

Our web site has a new look, a fresh design which gives much greater attention to some important areas of our activity. The content and functionality is largely the same – the focus has been on usability and navigation.

Social media has grown in importance for all of us, and this should help you track the News and our blogs more easily, and hopefully also prompt you to increase your feedback on what we are doing. Tell us how to improve this web site further so it meets your needs more effectively.

The services we develop and deliver remain centre stage in the new web site, both those for researchers, students and their teachers and also those for librarians and developers. That is our top priority: enhancing productivity as part of your digital infrastructure.

Feedback indicated that in our focus on services we may have been hiding the light of our expertise under a bushel. The web site is part of an experiment to make it easier for you to find out more about Who We Are and to access the products of our R&D projects. Of course, we hope many of you already know lots, although in these times of change and with JISC re-organisation we want a ready-way to update you on how we fit within “the JISC Family” and what JISC and other parts of the Family are doing for your organisation.

Another new feature will aggregate all the service and projects blogs to give you an insight into the full range of work going on at EDINA and the Data Library.

A taster of recent posts ...

Explore by Place: A New Way to Browse JISC MediaHub Content (JISC MediaHub): Explore by Place is part of the Explore area of JISC MediaHub (http://jiscmediabase.ac.uk/explore) where you will find a number of different ways to browse and explore interesting images, video, and sound...

Digimap gets a face lift (Digimap): You may have noticed some changes to the Digimap interface over the past month...

Weird and Wonderful Doctor Who (SUNCAT): As all Doctor Who fans know, series seven starts tomorrow with the showing of ‘Asylum of the Daleks’. To celebrate this here are some Doctor Who titles found in SUNCAT...

Cartography and the Tour de France (GoGeo): For those of you that know the person behind the GoGeo blog and @go_geo, then you will know that they enjoy a spot of cycling...

UKLA Roundup: August 2012 (UK LOCKSS Alliance): The August 2012 roundup from the UK LOCKSS Alliance support service is now available...

SPARQL – What’s up with that? (Will’s World): The title of this post is intended to convey a touch of bewilderment through use of a phrase from the Cliff Clavin school of observational comedy...

For all these and more, please have a look and subscribe to the feed at: http://blogs.edina.ac.uk/edina-blogs/
JISC MediaHub latest release: search widget; Explore by Place

We are pleased to announce some changes that have just been made to JISC MediaHub:

- Explore by Place has been added to the Explore functions
- An embedable search box (widget) has been added to the About page

Explore By Place

Explore by Place is part of the Explore area of JISC MediaHub where you will find a number of different ways to browse and explore interesting images, video, and sound.

- jiscmediahub.ac.uk/explore

Explore by Place uses geographic information, which we have for many but not all items in JISC MediaHub, to create a map of the world that connects the image, video or sound to the place it was shot or created. The first screen you will see is a map of the world centred on the UK and Northern Europe.

From this map you can zoom out to explore other areas of the globe or you can zoom in to explore content from the UK. The map works just like Google maps: you can use the scroll wheel of your mouse, or the + and - keys on your keyboard, to zoom in and out. If you want to move around the map just click and drag or slip the map around so that is focused where you want it to be.

Embedable search box (widget)

The widget lets you add a search box for the JISC MediaHub service to any website you wish, which means you could include the search box on your website, blog, and/or on your institutional portal or VLE, etc.

It looks like the search box in the top right-hand corner of JISC MediaHub.

The widget allows you to type in your search terms, tick what format you would like the results to appear in, and perform the search. A new tab or new window will open up with your search results shown - you can then access more detailed filtering of results.

Geoforum 2012

On 20 June 2012, EDINA hosted a Geoforum event at the National Railway Museum in York. The event brought together staff from education institutions across the UK, together with data providers and suppliers, and provided the opportunity for them to learn about new tools and interfaces that have been developed over the past year.

The event consisted of a number of presentations and demonstrations, which showcased applications such as the new Data Downloader in OS Digimap, Thematic Mapper and previewed the new Digimap home page. There was also a keynote presentation by Prof Dave Martin of the University of Southampton and Director of the ESRC Census Programme. The afternoon session gave attendees the opportunity to engage in focus groups or attend more technical presentations.

The event was well-received by those that attended, who said that it was extremely useful and a good way to catch up with the services they had access to, and that they would be able to direct staff and students to services that would enhance their learning and teaching. A number of attendees felt that regular Geoforums would help them continue to support their institutions.

A huge thanks to the staff at the National Railway Museum who helped the event run so smoothly. If you were unable to attend the event, you can read through the live blog which contains links to the presentations and an overview of the discussion that took place around them.

- digimap.blogs.edina.ac.uk/2012/06/18/geoforum-liveblog/

Tom Armitage talks through the variety of disciplines of from which Digimap users come
Open Repositories 2012: an international gathering

In July 2012 the University of Edinburgh hosted the Seventh International Conference on Open Repositories (OR2012).

Open Repositories is an annual gathering, bringing together those responsible for the development, implementation and management of digital repositories together with stakeholders to address theoretical, practical, and strategic issues across the entire lifecycle of research information, from the creation and management of digital content, to enabling use, re-use, and interconnection of information, and ensuring long-term preservation and archiving.

The theme and title of this year’s event – Open Services for Open Content: Local In for Global Out – reflected the current move towards open content, “augmented content”, distributed systems and data delivery infrastructures.

The conference opened with a number of varied and well-attended workshops. This was followed by over 40 plenary sessions in the two main conference strands enjoyed by more than 460 delegates from over 40 countries, a developer challenge organised by DevCSI, and Repository User Group sessions at the end of the week. For this year only, a third “Repository Fringe” strand was introduced, based on the successful “Repository Fringe” event hosted at the University of Edinburgh in recent years. This included a wide range of Pecha Kucha presentations which were lively and offered an “unconference” space for OR2012 delegates to set the agenda and promote discussion on nominated themes.

EDINA staff and services were involved throughout the week-long event not only as co-organisers of the conference but also as session chairs, speakers, participants in Developer Challenge and Repository Fringe strand activities, and workshop leaders.

EDINA highlights included a discussion about UK RepositoryNet+ (OR2012 sponsor), the Repositories Support Project: Building a National Network workshop as part of wider discussions on the recent JISC-funded activities in this area. The UK RepositoryNet+ team also led their own workshop showcasing Wave 1 service components and discussing ideas for Wave 2 components.

Other activities included a Repository Junction Broker round table and a paper from Andrew Dorward, Peter Burnhill and Terry Sloan (all EDINA), “The Development of a socio-technical infrastructure to support open access publishing through institutional repositories”.

EDINA Director Peter Burnhill closed the conference with a well-received summary of key themes and discussions.

Formal conference activity was complemented by outreach across multiple social media platforms that triggered much activity including a storify for #OR2012, a Google Doc with a capture of the nearly 5,000 tweets, and over 500 photographs on Flickr.

Presentations, videos and other conference artefacts are available on the OR2012 website.

- Storify: storify.com/edinadatatype/open-repositories-2012
- Tweet archive: bit.ly/NrPnZf
- Flickr photo archive: www.flickr.com/groups/or2012
- OR2012 website: or2012.ed.ac.uk

UK RepositoryNet+

The JISC-funded UK RepositoryNet+ (RepNet) project is undergoing key decision-making stages regarding provision of new services for the UK repository network. RepNet aims to establish a curation service to sustain universities in the Open Access agenda and support improvement in research information management, specifically providing managers of institutional repositories with shared services.

A one-day workshop took place at Open Repositories 2012 (see accompanying article on this page) involving previously selected RepNet Wave 1 components, such as the EDINA Repository Junction Broker/Organisation and Repository Identification deposit tool, Mimas IRUS-UK usage reporting feature and the CRC-University of Nottingham RoMEO and JULIET Open Access policy directories. The RepNet workshop aimed to promote discussion with the repository community on potential new services arising from component integration and subsequent gap analysis.

A round of consultations is now under way for final selection of the RepNet Wave 2 components, which will feature new functionality for improving efficiency at item deposit and discoverability level as well as reporting features across the UK repository network, possibly including guidance on institutional payment mechanisms for supporting the transition towards an Open Access publishing model.

Finally, the OR2012 Conference served the RepNet purpose of establishing links with international projects and initiatives working on the enhancement of repository networks. Identification of potential synergies and opportunities for collaboration with stakeholders like OpenAIRE European Project or the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) was the focus of several meetings, aiming to ensure international compatibility of proposed solutions to common issues.

- UK RepositoryNet+: ukreponetplus.blogs.edina.ac.uk
PhoneBooth shows impact of mobile technology in education

The Charles Booth Maps, Descriptive of London Poverty and selected police notebooks, which record eye-witness descriptions of London street-by-street, are a significant and well-used resource at the London School of Economics (LSE) Digital Library.

In partnership with LSE, a prototype mobile web app and native Android app were developed by EDINA using open-source technologies. These have been incorporated into the LSE Digital Library for delivery of the Booth maps and are used within taught courses. EDINA staff trained LSE staff in mobile and geospatial technologies, providing the foundations for future digital library service developments.

The application was piloted by a current course cohort and the project investigated the extent to which mobile delivery has changed perceptions of the role of the content and the library in the teaching process.

The project pointed to the conclusion that the ‘mobilisation’ of library-owned content can have a significant impact on pedagogical method, that mobile and geospatial delivery provide the basis for innovative library service development, and that mobile technology skills are becoming an essential component of the modern library.

PhoneBooth was funded under the mobile libraries strand of the JISC Digital Infrastructure Portfolio 12/11.

• PhoneBooth at LSE: www2.lse.ac.uk/library/collections/digital/projects/PhoneBooth.aspx

Accessing ceased or cancelled content with LOCKSS

Libraries can now provide access to ceased or cancelled subscription content by integrating the LOCKSS software with leading link-resolver systems, meaning students and researchers can readily access content that otherwise they would not be able to. LOCKSS currently integrates with Ex Libris’ SFX and Serials Solutions’ 360Link, and the development team is working to integrate with Innovative Interfaces WebBridge.

Providing access to content is giving institutions further confidence in the LOCKSS approach, which in turn results in greater confidence to undertake cost saving exercises, disposing of low-use print and considering more seriously the cancellation of low-use subscriptions.

• UK LOCKSS Alliance: www.lockssalliance.ac.uk

New Staff

Pratyusha Doddapaneni
Pratyusha is working on a collaboration project (REDIC) between EDINA and the Digital Library. She worked as a System Software Engineer at IBM and research assistant at University of Edinburgh over the last four years, completing her postgraduate degree from the university.

David Girdwood
David has joined the Data Library team. He gained a PhD in molecular biology, and worked as a life scientist in various academic organisations, including the Scripps Research Institute, MRC Human Genetics Unit as well as the University of Edinburgh.

Mhairi O’Hara
Mhairi is joining EDINA as a GIS Technician for the Geo Services Team. She recently completed the GIS MSc at Edinburgh University, and has worked for the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, British Waterways, National Grid and Transport for Scotland.

William Petit
William joined EDINA as a Software Engineer in the Bibliographic and Multimedia team. He previously worked four years for Sun Microsystems as Software Engineer in a team mainly involved in diagnostics and product testing.

Chris Yocum
Chris is Technical Support for the RepNet team. He has a PhD from the University of Edinburgh in early medieval Ireland and has been a visiting research fellow at the School of Informatics; his work experience includes time at Microsoft and Amazon.com.

Forthcoming Events

edin.ac.uk/events

Training

Digimap Essentials
15 November 2012, Leeds University

Digimap Essentials
4 April 2013, Imperial College London

Webinars

Digimap Site Rep Update
3 October 2012

Introduction to Digimap’s Ordnance Survey Collection
24 October 2012

View Ordnance Survey maps with Roam and Carto
7 November 2012

Historic Digimap
21 November 2012

Download Ordnance Survey data
28 November 2012

JISC MediaHub
5 December 2012

Conferences

Internet Librarian International 2012
30-31 October 2012, Olympia 2, London
www.internet-librarian.com/2012/