Delivering value: Past, Present and Future

At EDINA we have been giving a lot of thought recently to our past, present and future, as we play our part in enabling Jisc to deliver what is wanted and required in the research, education and skills sector.

Past: Our Annual Review for 2012/13
We have used a new online format to publish the Annual Review of our activities as a Jisc centre for digital expertise and online service delivery.

- EDINA Annual Review 2012-13: edina.ac.uk/about/annual_review2013/
- Downloadable PDF (including appendices): edina.ac.uk/about/annual_review2013/annual_review_2012-2013.pdf

Professor Charles Oppenheim, outgoing Chair of the EDINA Management Board, remarks in the Annual Review:

“EDINA offers a suite of tried and tested resources, and a strong commitment to serve all of its communities, with quality improvement built in to its processes. It has been an honour and a pleasure to be associated with EDINA in recent years. I commend its services to you.”

The Review includes stories of our contributions to education and research as part the Jisc family. Our Director, Peter Burnhill, who also gives a video introduction to his report, says:

“Having played a successful part since 1995/1996, and repeatedly building upon experience as Edinburgh University Data Library, we have confidence in our role in enabling Jisc to address sector priorities and support national strategies. We are focused on providing you with cost-effective shared services and infrastructure for research and education. These continue to be financially-challenging times, but, operating to agreed service levels, we will continue to provide you with trustworthy and quality-assured services.”

We welcome feedback at edina@ed.ac.uk

Present: Community Report, Autumn 2013
Our Community Report, a twice-yearly summary of our current and recent activities, is now available online.

- EDINA Community Report, September 2013 edina.ac.uk/about/commrep/Community_Report_September_2013-web.pdf

We hope it provides a useful digest, and look forward to any comments you may have.

Future: Vision for 2020
We’ve been looking to the future too.


We have drawn inspiration from members of our Management Board (see the accompanying statement from the new chairman Mark Brown), as well as our staff and other experts both within and outwith the Jisc family. Our Vision for 2020 is firmly founded on the excellent feedback and critical insight from our stakeholders and the users of our services.

To further inform the Vision, we decided to create personas (fictional people, representative of particular stakeholders). We are now publishing two of these personas monthly, a programme that allows us to invite input from you regularly. So far we have released persona descriptions for “Sabina”, “Beth”, “Matthew”, “Nina”, “Jana”, and “Craig”:

- edina.ac.uk/about/docs.html#vision2020

We are also going to ‘road test’ the personas to see what our users think of them. If you would like to help us with this, or to derive further personas, or if you have comments on the 2020 Vision, please contact edina@ed.ac.uk.

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. Most EDINA services are free of charge at the point of use. For information on institutional subscription fees, visit the EDINA website, or contact us (details below).

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Metadata project fills gaps in old maps

EDINA has recently successfully completed a metadata capture project in partnership with the National Library of Scotland (NLS).

The main aim of Historic Map Series Metadata for England and Wales project was to capture the date of the survey upon which the map was based from the marginalia of the map sheets. This data was not available in a digital format; each sheet had to be physically examined in the NLS so that the survey date could be recorded.

The two series selected were:

- **The England and Wales County Series**, produced between the 1850s and 1940s at 1:2,500 scale (25 inches to the mile). The NLS holdings for this series was approximately 116,000 sheets.

- **The England and Wales County Series**, produced between the 1840s and 1940s at 1:10,560 scale (6 inches to the mile). The NLS holding for this series was approximately 36,000 sheets.

Begun in 1840, the County Series was the first comprehensive historical mapping of England, Scotland and Wales. A start was made on mapping the whole country, county by county, at six inches to the mile. From 1854, to meet requirements for greater detail, cultivated and inhabited areas were mapped at 25 inches to the mile.

The Historic Metadata project will lead to significantly improved metadata and more appropriate and accurate date information being presented to users of Historic Digimap. Currently the only date information held by EDINA for these series relates to the publication date of the map. The addition of survey dates allows more accurate dating of the map sheets resulting in the historical map data becoming more usable for research and teaching purposes.

Small variances between the survey date and publication date of a map sheet can result in significant changes when the maps are presented via the Historic Digimap “Ancient Roam” interface. The maps are presented on a decade by decade basis, so, a difference between survey and publication date of only a couple of years could move a sheet from one decade to another.

Previous experience had taught that, given the developing nature of grids, projections and origins, it can sometimes be difficult to place a historical map sheet accurately into its modern-day context. In order to minimise any uncertainty and effort, the data was also provided in GIS “shape files” which define the geographical extents of the sheets.

Chris Fleet, Senior Map Curator at the NLS said:

“We are extremely grateful to EDINA for funding this project, which has been of long-term benefit for the National Library of Scotland and our users. Through EDINA’s funding, we were able to create a comprehensive listing of all our Ordnance Survey County Map holdings of England and Wales for the first time at the NLS.”

The new metadata is currently undergoing quality assurance at EDINA and is expected to go into service in Spring 2014. Now that the NLS have a complete listing of their holdings of these series, they intend using it to plan a digitisation programme for the map sheets.

- **Historic Digimap** is the collection within the EDINA Digimap service that allows a subscriber to view historical OS maps from the 1840s to the 1990s: digimap.edina.ac.uk/digimap/home

- A graphical interface representing the NLS holdings of these series: maps.nls.uk/geo/records/

COBWEB “citizen observatory” project marks 1st birthday

The COBWEB (Citizen Observatories Web) Project has been marking its first anniversary with several meetings and milestones.

Partners met in Greece from 28 October to 2 November to explore the two Greek biospheres that the project is working with, the Gorge of Samaria and Mount Olympus. The meeting enabled representatives from Dyfi Biosphere the opportunity to understand the Greek context and to consider the needs of the communities likely to be using COBWEB technologies in these very different regions. The visit also enabled technical partners to understand the particular challenges and opportunities of COBWEB in the two biospheres.

The full COBWEB consortium met in Edinburgh on 13–14 November for a busy review of activity to date and the opportunity to discuss several demonstrators presented at the meeting. With a number of deliverables due over the next 12 months, including our first pilots of COBWEB technologies, much of this meeting explored user requirements and the technical architecture to be taken forward. A great deal of progress was made over the two days, with partners leaving with clear plans for work and collaboration over the year ahead.

A report on the Edinburgh meeting will shortly be available on the COBWEB news page.

COBWEB is a large project that brings together expertise from 13 partners and five countries. We aim to create a testbed environment which will enable citizens living with UNESCO designated Biosphere Reserves to collect environmental data using mobile devices.

- [COBWEB project website](http://cobwebproject.eu)

Members of the COBWEB Project Team in the Mt Olympus Biosphere

One example of mapping data in marginalia.
News from the Keepers Registry

EDINA and the ISSN International Centre have worked together to create the Keepers Registry (thekeepers.org), a new Jisc service to global reach, one that enables researchers and librarians to discover which of the world’s e-journals are safely archived and which are still at risk of loss.

The Library of Congress (www.loc.gov), the largest library in the world, is the 10th archiving organisation to join the Keepers Registry, having accepted responsibility for the long-term preservation of e-journals that are published in the USA, and for which there is no print equivalent. This is the latest ‘keeper of digital content’ whose metadata on ingested content is cross-checked against the ISSN Register and displayed alongside reports from other archiving agencies across the world.

The project phase to pilot the e-journal preservation registry service (PEPRS) included the five most prominent archiving organisations at the time: CLOCKSS, Portico, e-Depot (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands), the British Library and the Global LOCKSS Network. Hathitrust and the National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences also participated during the latter part of the pilot project, the former reporting on digitised journals. The Scholars Portal (Ontario, Canada) and the Archaeological Data Service (UK) joined earlier in 2013.

Generating Evidence on Archival Action

The Keepers Registry currently supports a simple user interface that allows searching on a single ISSN or set of key words. We are now starting to use this sizeable database for empirical study. The good news is that over 21,500 titles are reported as archived.

What is worrying, however, is that analysis of usage data available from the OpenURL Router, cross-checked against the Registry, indicates that two-thirds of the titles requested in 2012 by researchers, students and staff in the UK remain at risk of loss because of no known archiving activity.

• OpenURL Router data: openurl.ac.uk/doc/data/data.html
• “Generating Actionable Evidence on E-journal Archiving” (the Keepers Registry Blog): bit.ly/1gXNOu

Out and About

2013 has been a busy year for national and international engagement with the library and digital preservation communities, with presentations at UKSG (Bournemouth), IFLA (Singapore), and the Preservation at Scale Workshop at iPres (Lisbon).

Next year, 2014, will see the start of engagement with publishers – with focus on means to reach out to the long tail of small publishers, with presentations to conferences of Academic Publishing in Europe (Berlin – January) and the Association of Subscription Agents (London – February).

Coming Soon

The next release of Keepers Registry will include additional functionality to check the archival status of a list of e-journal titles and also a facility for machine-to-machine access so that the archival status of a particular title can be displayed in third-party services.

For more information and updates, see

• The Keepers Registry: thekeepers.org
• The Keepers Registry blog: thekeepers.blogs.edina.ac.uk

New functionality for UK LOCKSS Alliance members

Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe (LOCKSS) is an international initiative to ensure libraries remain central to the process of scholarly information management. It provides libraries with the tools and support to easily and inexpensively take custody of the assets for which they have paid.

The UK LOCKSS Alliance (UKLA) is a cooperative movement of UK academic libraries that are committed to identify, negotiate, and build local archives of material that librarians and academic scholars deem significant.

The developments reported here are part of an ongoing effort by the LOCKSS development team to ensure that the LOCKSS software can integrate easily with library infrastructure.

Released Functionality

The following two features help UKLA members use LOCKSS in their local library environment.

• Link Resolver Integration: Access, via the library catalogue, to content preserved in a LOCKSS box can be provided by integrating LOCKSS with link resolver systems. The LOCKSS software can be integrated with Ex Libris’ SFX, Serials Solutions 360Link, and Innovative Interfaces WebBridge. Development is nearing completion for EBSCOHost LinkSource and OCLC WorldCat.

• Title List: This feature displays the status of content that is available for preservation or is preserved in your LOCKSS box. You can use this feature to generate three kinds of KBART-compliant reports: (1) a report of titles and volumes that are “available” for preservation in your LOCKSS box; (2) a report of the titles and volumes that are “available” for preservation in your LOCKSS box so that they may be ingested when they are available; and (3) a report of the titles and volumes that you have “collected” in your LOCKSS box and that are now available for end users to access.

Experimental Functionality

Three new experimental functions are now available and are being tested by the LOCKSS membership. If you wish to participate in beta-testing of these functions, please contact edina@ed.ac.uk.

• Subscription Manager: To reduce collection management requirements, system administrators will use the Subscription Manager to register institutional holdings for each title so that when new volumes are released these are configured automatically for collection by the institution’s LOCKSS box.

• Display Content Status: To assist with collection management, the Display Content Status function shows you what content preserved in a LOCKSS box can be provided by integrating LOCKSS with link resolver systems. The LOCKSS software can be integrated with Ex Libris’ SFX, Serials Solutions 360Link, and Innovative Interfaces WebBridge. Development is nearing completion for EBSCOHost LinkSource and OCLC WorldCat.

• COUNTER Reports: To assist with reporting on the value of investment, LOCKSS can now generate reports compliant with the latest COUNTER Code of practice for e-resources.

For more details on the new functionality described here, along with news on new case studies and information regarding the costs associated with UKLA membership, see the latest newsletter available from the UKLA website:

• UKLA Roundup: www.lockssalliance.ac.uk/2013/10/31/ukla-roundup-october-2013/
FOSS4G 2013 - the global conference on Open Source Geospatial Software

FOSS4G 2013 was held in Nottingham in September 2013 and brought together almost 1,000 developers and users of open-source geospatial software.

- 2013.foss4g.org

EDINA was part of the local organising committee and its contribution was two-fold: it supplied time for staff to help organise the event, and it sponsored a number of academic bursaries. The academic bursaries provided free entry and accommodation to twelve early stage researchers who relied upon, or developed open source solutions. The bursary recipients have described their FOSS4G experiences in short articles that can be read on the FOSS4G 2013 website.

- 2013.foss4g.org/?s=Academic+Bursary+Review

Four developers from the GeoData team attended workshops and presentations over the week and you can read about their experiences on the GoGeo blog.

- GoGeo blog: gogeo.blogs.edina.ac.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about the event, many of the presentations (slides and audio) are available on the conference YouTube channel.

- Conference YouTube channel: bit.ly/1cR36L6

Data Library helps drive RDM roadmap

The Data Library team has been working with University of Edinburgh (UoE) colleagues in the Library and IT Infrastructure to deliver a Research Data Management (RDM) Roadmap to implement the University RDM policy, originally passed in May, 2011.

A major new service – storage allocation of 1.5 TB per researcher – is currently being rolled out to the schools across the University. This represents significant capital investment in supporting researchers to manage their data well and to comply with funder requirements.

This “active datastore” is one component of the RDM Roadmap. Two others – Edinburgh DataShare, the University data repository; and MANTRA, the online training course in RDM for researchers – are being delivered by the Data Library team based at EDINA. DataShare is based on similar technology to ShareGeo Open, a site for sharing and re-using geospatial datasets available through EDINA.

Other services in development include a UoE-customised template for the Digital Curation Centre’s DMPOnline tool for creating data management plans, a data asset register for holding metadata about research data in the University, a Vault for retaining “golden copies” of research data safely, along with an underlying support structure and an awareness campaign.

- Follow the Edinburgh Data Blog for ongoing developments: datablog.is.ed.ac.uk/

Environment Digimap free to July 2014

As trailed in the previous edition of Newsline, a new Digimap Collection, Environment Digimap, was launched in October.

- digimap.edina.ac.uk

The new collection offers land cover map data from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH). Environment Digimap is a subscription service, but will be available free of charge until 31 July 2014. Afterwards, an institutional subscription fee will apply.

Environment Digimap offers two facilities: mapping through Environment Roam, and the ability to download data through Environment Download. The data available, CEH’s Land Cover Map products, provide a snapshot of land cover for the years 1990, 2000 and 2007. There are raster datasets available at 25m and 1km resolutions for each year and a vector version of the 2000 dataset. The data are in a range of formats depending on the year. More details are available in the Environment Digimap Help Pages:

- bit.ly/1Be0pUH

To use this service for free, institutions will still need to subscribe via the Jisc Collections website, normally arranged by the institution’s Digimap site rep:

- www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/Catalogue/Overview/Index/1408

If you have any questions about Environment Digimap, please contact us at edina@ed.ac.uk

New look SUNCAT now available

As promised in the last issue of Newsline, the new-look SUNCAT is now available. This redeveloped service will run in parallel with the original service for another six months, thus providing a gradual transition period for our users:

- New SUNCAT service: service.suncat.ac.uk/search

We encourage everyone to start using the new service as soon as possible to take advantage of the additional functionality detailed in the last Newsline:

- edina.ac.uk/news/newsline18-3/suncat.html

We welcome your feedback via the “Contact” link in the footer of the service pages. We also plan to conduct a survey early in 2014 to gauge initial user experience and to gather information about key features and issues for ongoing development work.

Alongside the redevelopment of the service, SUNCAT is continuing to expand. Three new libraries have been added in 2013, including City University London, the Glasgow School of Art and most recently, Goldsmiths, University of London. This brings the total number of contributing libraries to 92. In addition, SUNCAT also contains bibliographic records from CONSER, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and the ISSN Register. A full list of SUNCAT contributing libraries is available:

- www.suncat.ac.uk/description/contributing_libraries.html

Staff news

Michele Macdonald

I have joined EDINA as a Helpdesk Assistant. Previously, I worked at the National Museums of Scotland in an IT Support role and prior to that worked for BT in various IT related roles, both project and in-service support.