Who holds that journal content? – an update

The Keepers Registry
Supporting long-term access to journal content

Jisc service “The Keepers Registry”, used alongside SUNCAT as a key reference tool for libraries as they undertake collection management decisions, now records that over 23,500 serial titles are being archived (at least in part) by one or more of ten archiving agencies (including the Library of Congress).

That is the good news. But analysis of library serials lists and online usage, available on the Keepers’ Blog, reveals that only a small proportion of what researchers and librarians think important is being kept safe. As reported in presentations to librarians, publishers and subscription agents, this should be an alarm bell and call for remedial action across the sector.

Progress towards an “e-only” model, including print rationalisation, is mission critical for many libraries in order to meet targets associated with cost saving and user satisfaction. However, academics want assurances that e-only is secure and that their library will be able to ensure continuing access if the publisher cannot supply access in either the long or short-term.

The Keepers Registry, funded by Jisc and operated in partnership by EDINA and the ISSN International Centre, provides a key library tool that simplifies discovery of this assurance.

A two-year project that builds on the work of the ejournal Archiving Implementation Group (JARVIG) will be launched in August. The project will bring together relevant stakeholders into a set of ‘task and finish’ working groups. These will identify community and sector requirements and initiate actions, both nationally and internationally, to significantly increase the proportion of e-journal content ingested by organisations with long-term archival intent. Project outcomes will include:

- Analysis of collections, usage and risk that allows us to assign priority of attention to serial content
- A toolkit building upon Keepers Registry data that improves library awareness and understanding about collection coverage
- A programme of research and development to scope and act on data quality and metadata challenges, that might lead to service enhancements for the Keepers Registry and other Jisc services

- Understanding how the Keepers Registry model can be extended to show how other types of scholarly content (and e-resources for scholarship) are being kept safe.

By working with the archiving agencies that are doing the real and essential work to ensure library e-collections continue to be accessible, and the library and publisher communities who can help define the content most in need of action, this Jisc-funded project aims to be a key strategic activity that will reduce the risk of loss of access to knowledge.

- The Keepers Registry: thekeepers.org

Fond farewell to a great Guy

Fred Guy took charge of SUNCAT in 2005, joining EDINA after a break from a long career at the National Library of Scotland. In recent years Fred was instrumental in increasing the coverage to “probably 99%” of all serials held in research libraries across the UK and in managing the introduction of a new interface for SUNCAT, now with maps and optimised for the mobile internet.

Fred was also project manager for PEPRS, our joint initiative with the ISSN International Centre, which led to the successful launch of the Keepers Registry, now internationally recognised as the means to discover who is archiving e-journal content, given that this part of the scholarly record is no longer held in the libraries that you and I have come to think important are being kept safe. As reported in presentations to librarians, publishers and subscription agents, this should be an alarm bell and call for remedial action across the sector.

In March of this year we wished Fred a happy and prosperous retirement, and we mark our appreciation again here, together with an update on recent activity in the areas that Fred helped advance (see p. 2).

Adam Rusbridge steps up to take charge as Service Manager for the Keepers Registry, which now forms part of the core offering that Jisc makes to the research education sector alongside SUNCAT, the leadership for which is taken up by Paul Walk, who joined us last year as Head of Technology Strategy & Planning. Both Adam and Paul are taking forward related project work to advance easy and assured access to e-journal content.
New-look SUNCAT becomes the primary service

The new look SUNCAT became the primary SUNCAT service in mid-March. To coincide with this, EDINA ran a number of Serials Forums to highlight not only how SUNCAT, but also other EDINA services, including the Keepers Registry, and initiatives such as the UK LOCKSS Alliance, can assist libraries in managing their journal collections.

We were also delighted to welcome the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) Manager, Daryl Yang, who provided an update on the UKRR (www.ukrr.ac.uk) and how SUNCAT supports the service.

A short report on the Forums is available at:
- suncat.blogs.edina.ac.uk/2014/03/25/report-on-edina-serials-forums-march-2014

Since then another release of the new interface has been made live, with key enhancements including:
- Improved responsiveness for mobile devices
- New format limit on the Advanced Search page enabling searches to be limited to electronic only or non-electronic only journal holdings
- Improvements to filtering the CONSER data
- Enhanced volume/issue/date information in the Table of Contents display

We hope finally to switch off access to the old interface over the summer but before doing so, we want to report back on the latest survey we have just conducted on the new service. Please look for the report on the SUNCAT blog at suncat.blogs.edina.ac.uk.

EDINA Serials Forums: March 2014

The latest developments with SUNCAT and other e-journal activities were the themes of two half-day forums held in March 2014. 70 delegates attended the events at SOAS and the University of Edinburgh and heard a number of talks starting with an overview of EDINA’s involvement in the world of journal discovery, access and preservation and how it is positioned within JISC’s portfolio of services, followed by a focus on how SUNCAT can support end-users and library professionals, illustrated with a number of use cases such as the latest planned development of a journals-holding comparison service.

New Contributing Libraries

Finally we are pleased to report that another four new libraries have been added to SUNCAT:
- Brunel University
- London Metropolitan University
- National Museum of Scotland
- Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

This now brings the total number of Contributing Libraries to 96, plus bibliographic records from CONSER, the ISSN register and the Directory of Open Access Journals. A full list of SUNCAT contributing libraries is available at:
- www.suncat.ac.uk/description/contributing_libraries.html

Please continue to send us your feedback and comments on the new service or any questions you have via the “Contact” link in the footer of all the SUNCAT pages or via the EDINA Helpdesk edina@ed.ac.uk

- SUNCAT: suncat.ac.uk

Commercial radio archive joins Jisc MediaHub

Jisc MediaHub now includes the most important digitised commercial radio archive in the UK: the LBC/IRN Archive. You can browse this new collection via our ‘Explore by Collection’ page.

This digital archive features 4,000 hours of news bulletins, vox-pops, phone-ins, documentaries and current affairs programmes dating from 1973 to the mid-1990s.


The archive makes an important contribution to charting the history of radio broadcasting, offering an alternative view to the BBC’s archive collection and featuring a variety of content that delineates the listening tastes and social mores of the time period.

This will be of interest to anyone studying, teaching or researching media-related subject areas, giving access to eyewitness reports of moments in history as well as broader analysis of news events in discussion programmes and public information broadcasts.

Highlights from this collection include coverage of the whole Thatcher era of government, from 1979 to 1990, and reports, documentaries, phone-ins and vox-pops relating to the National Miners’ Strike of 1984 to 1985.

You can also watch original ITV news reports on the start of commercial radio broadcasting in London (users must be logged in to Jisc MediaHub to view the video footage).

Universities and colleges are now able to subscribe to the service via Jisc Collections. There is no charge for FE.

- Jisc MediaHub: jiscmediahub.ac.uk

‘Digital Participation Inquiry’ Final Report

The publication and launch of the Final Report from the Royal Society of Edinburgh’s “Spreading the Benefits of Digital Participation” Inquiry took place on 30 April this year.

Nicola Osborne, EDINA’s Social Media officer, and member of the Inquiry Committee, writes that the report “…highlights the importance of digital literacy and equality to enable meaningful access to, and the greatest benefits from, the internet, which has importance for the work EDINA does and the communities we serve.”

Official launch of historical maps in Digimap for Schools

April 15, 2014 saw the official launch of historical maps in Digimap for Schools.

The formal launch of this new addition to Digimap for Schools, made possible by the generosity of the National Library of Scotland, was celebrated at the annual Geography Association conference 14 and 15 April at the University of Surrey.

Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB, Director General and Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey, marked the launch during her conference lecture.

It was at this same event, at the same venue in 2011, that Digimap for Schools received the Geographical Association Publisher’s Gold Award for making a significant contribution to geographical education and professional development. The service has grown in popularity since 2011 with over 20% of secondary schools in England and over 30% in Scotland now using the service.

Chris Fleet, Senior Map Curator at NLS said

‘Old maps present our history in one of its most enthralling forms. We are delighted to be collaborating with Ordnance Survey and EDINA in delivering our historic maps to schools through the Digimap for Schools application.’

Peter Burnhill, Director of EDINA said

‘Students, pupils and their teachers now have unrivalled access to the very best maps to gain rich understanding of how Britain’s landscape has changed in over a century. The result is endlessly fascinating: the skill and generosity of staff at the National Library of Scotland have enabled a real sense of place when combined with the Ordnance Survey maps of today’s Britain’.

• Digimap for Schools: digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/cosmo/home

Environment Digimap Service

We have been collecting your feedback about the Environment Digimap service and have already started to make changes based on what you have told us.

Digimap Roundup

Environment Digimap Survey

We have been collecting your feedback about the Environment Digimap service and have already started to make changes based on what you have told us.

• digimap.blogs.edina.ac.uk/2014/05/08/environment-digimap-feedback/

Environment Digimap Pricing Announced

Jisc have announced how much institutions will be paying to continue their subscription to Environment Digimap in 2014-15.

The subscription for the service will be £500 for the biggest HE institutions down to £190 for the smallest.

FE Institutions will not have to pay to access this service.

Chat live with our support team

You can now have a live chat with the user support team by using the pop-up window in the help pages.

We’ll be trialling this new method of contacting Digimap Support over the summer and if it proves useful and sustainable we’ll keep it in service.

• Digimap Resource Centre: digimap.edina.ac.uk/webhelp/resources/

For more on these and other stories, visit the June edition of the Digimap Newsletter: edina.ac.uk/digimap/newsletters/june2014.html

Unlocking the DEEP

Unlock, EDINA’s middleware gazetteer and text parsing service, has recently been enriched with the final content from the Jisc-funded DEEP (Digital Exposure of English Place-names) project.

DEEP started from the premise that place-names are not static but evolve and change over time. They come with rich cultural and historical significance and have complex etymologies derived from different languages that mean different things to different communities. Therefore, historical documents and archives, ephemera and sources, contain different spellings and forms of place-names, depending on their date and context.

However, until now there has been no digital gazetteer documenting these historic name forms. DEEP addressed this deficiency by digitisation of a key non-digital resource – the volumes of historical English place-names maintained by the specialists of the English Place-Name Society (EPNS) who have been systematically surveying the historical evolution of place-name forms since 1922.

Examining an extensive range of documentary sources in local and national archives, and gathering the knowledge of local communities and experts, the EPNS has built up an 86-volume county-by-county survey of England’s place-names – detailing over four million variant forms, from classical sources, through the Anglo-Saxon period, into medieval England and beyond to the modern period.

The DEEP project has digitised most of these forms and made them available as a structured digital data corpus, which has been incorporated into Unlock (both Unlock Places and Unlock Text), meaning that researchers are now able to cross-query the dataset and use it to search and data-mine their own digital documents and databases for any historic place-name form.

• DEEP: englishplacenames.cerch.kcl.ac.uk
• Unlock: edina.ac.uk/unlock
OBWEB takes a FieldTrip to the Science Communications Conference 2014

This May a team from EDINA’s Geodata services (Addy Pope) and the EU-funded OBWEB project (Nicola Osborne, EDINA and Barry Evans, University of Aberystwyth) collaborated with the Open University’s nQuire and Sense-it projects (Prof. Mike Sharples, Eloy Villasclaras-Fernandez) on a “Citizen Science” session for the British Science Association’s Science Communication Conference 2014, held at the University of Surrey, Guildford.

The conference, which was opened by Jim Al-Khalili, Professor of Physics, Professor of Public Engagement in Science and host of Radio 4’s “The Life Scientific”, brought together science communication and public engagement practitioners from across the UK and Europe for two days of talks, workshops and hands-on sessions covering all aspects of science communication, which included contributions from the UK Government’s Chief Scientific Advisor, universities and research organisations, the Wellcome Trust, BIS, science centres around the UK, and even a few science comedians.

The aim of the workshop was to demonstrate how easy it is to create interesting and engaging participatory science missions. After a five-minute overview of each app, participants paired up and headed outside. Their mission was to collect data on sounds around the university campus with each pair having access to both Fieldtrip GB and Sense-it. They had around 15 minutes to collect as much data as they could before returning back to the classroom. Once everyone was back, the team uploaded the data and displayed it to the group. This led onto a group discussion on the opportunities and challenges of using citizen science or crowdsourcing as part of science communication activities. The discussion provided useful feedback to the app developers but also brought out some interesting scenarios where the app could be used in participatory science.

- FieldTrip GB: fieldtripgb.blogs.edina.ac.uk
- OBWEB: cobwebproject.eu
- Open University Sense-it app: edin.ac/1l2UWGf
- Write up of the Citizen Science session: edin.ac/1pP39yh

EDINA at Open Repositories conferences

EDINA staff presented at the major international Open Repositories conference ‘OR2014’, which took place recently in Helsinki. The sessions were recorded and are now available online at

or2014.helsinki.fi/?page_id=985

Session related to work at EDINA: Publications Router 24x7; RSS Panel; Minute Madness (Muriel Mewisson); Hiberlink Paper (Martin Klein); Geo-enabling repositories (James Reid); Research Data Management Spatial Data workshop (Addy Pope, Sandy Buchanan).

We are also involved in the organisation of the Repository Fringe in Edinburgh this summer, and welcome you to join us on 30-31 July at this free un-conference now in its 7th year.

- www.repositoryfringe.org

New Staff

Steven Davies
I work as a Software Engineer in the Bibliographic & Multimedia team. I’ve just completed my PhD in Software Engineering at Strathclyde University, and before that I worked as a developer working billing and payment processing.

Ruben Gamez
I am a software engineer with about 10 years of experience in different roles, previously I worked in the financial sector as database administrator and as a developer in other web services projects. I am working initially at EDINA on the Spatial Memories project.

Ray Carrick
I’ve worked in software development and sys-admin roles, working on projects such as an adaptive natural language generation system and large volume web traffic analysis. My first task here at EDINA is to look at presenting stats from the Repository Junction Broker.

Training Update

EDINA’s User Support team has delivered ten workshops on Digimap Collections in 2013-14, to around 150 participants. The team also organise webinars on Digimap Collections and other EDINA services.

We are starting to plan our training schedule for 2014-15. If you would like to host a workshop at your institution (note: there is no charge to your institution) or would like to attend a workshop in your area, please get in touch to help us plan where to go.

You can also suggest topics for webinars or request webinars for you and your colleagues. We look forward to hearing from you.

Forthcoming events

Details and links to events: edina.ac.uk/events

Jisc RSC Northwest Annual Event 2014, 2 July 2014, Old Trafford, Manchester
Jisc RSC Eastern e-Fair 4 July 2014, West Suffolk College
Repository Fringe 2014 30-31 July 2014, Edinburgh
What Skeletons Are in Your Closet? Part of the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, 19th August, at Stand in the Square, Edinburgh
Who Do You Think You Are? Live SCOTLAND 29-31 August 2014, SECC, Glasgow
UKSG Forum, 21 November 2014, Grand Connahunt Rooms, London