

Newsline from EDINA

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About EDINA

EDINA, based at Edinburgh University Data Library, is a JISC-funded national datacentre. It offers the UK tertiary education and research community networked access to 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).

Contacts

Tel: 0131 650 3302
Fax: 0131 650 3308
Email: edina@ed.ac.uk
Web: edina.ac.uk

Newsline Editor: Paul Milne

Curating the future with the DCC

The UK is to have a Digital Curation Centre (www.dcc.ac.uk), jointly managed by the JISC and the e-Science Core Programme. Funding began on 1 March 2004, as successful outcome to a response to JISC Circular 6/03 by a consortium comprising the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, which together host the National e-Science Centre, UKOLN at the University of Bath, and CCLRC, which manages the Rutherford Appleton and Daresbury Laboratories.

The DCC intends to support expertise and practice in data curation and preservation, prompting collaboration between the Universities and the Research Councils to ensure that there is continuing access to data of scholarly interest. The initial focus is on research data, but the policy intention is to also address the preservation needs of e-learning and scholarly communication.

A deluge of data

Scientists and researchers across the UK generate increasingly vast amounts of digital data, with further investment in digitisation and purchase of digital content and information. The scientific record and the documentary heritage created in digital form are at risk, from technology obsolescence and from the fragility of digital media. The JISC and the academic community have already begun to identify a strategic approach and have invested in a number of scoping studies. Building on that work and the expertise already existing in particular disciplines, the task is now to

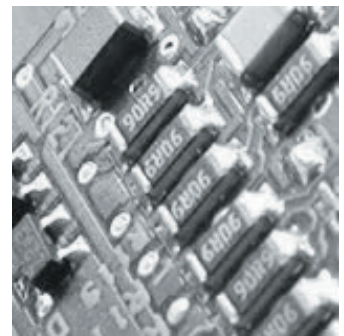
support UK institutions in storing, managing and preserving these data to ensure their enhancement and continuing long-term use.

We are all curators now

Digital curation is a new phrase that includes but also goes beyond that of data archiving and digital preservation, to include the active management and appraisal of data over the life cycle of scholarly and scientific interest: it is thus the key to reproducibility and re-use. The overriding purpose of the Centre is continuing improvement in the quality of data curation and digital preservation. The DCC is not itself to be a digital repository, nor an attempt to impose policies and practices of one branch of scholarship upon another. Having relevance across the full range of scholarly and scientific endeavour, unifying themes include attention to provenance and 'data as evidence'. The challenge is to provide the platform for collaboration.

Working with other practitioners, the DCC plans to:

- Establish a vibrant research programme, addressing the wider issues of digital curation
- Nurture strong links across existing community of practice, through an Associates Network and engagement with individuals and organisations who act as curators
- Develop services to evaluate tools, methods, standards and policies, acting as a repository of tools and technical information



- Achieve the 'virtuous circle', whereby expertise, experience and requirement feed into the DCC research programme

Start-up and launch

We have embarked upon a programme of start-up activities that should result in the formal launch of the Digital Curation Centre in October 2004. The web site is in place, and the Helpdesk is taking messages at digitalcuration@ed.ac.uk. Over the coming months we will plan to deliver a Web portal, an e-Journal, an advisory service, and programmes of promotion and outreach, and of standards-based development of registries, testbeds and tools.

EDINA's role

EDINA and the Data Library are supporting the DCC through Helpdesk and web site activity, and by seconding staff for the set-up phase: Peter Burnhill acts as its Director (Phase One) and Robin Rice as Phase One Project Co-ordinator. Both do so on a part-time basis, and are working eagerly with other partners in an international search for a full-time director, of world-class calibre, to be in place for the launch in October.

Service News

UKBORDERS has new boundaries

On 9 March, EDINA released 2001 Census boundary data for England, Scotland and Wales. Fifty-two distinct 2001 Census boundary datasets are now available for download through UKBORDERS Easy-Download, including:

- Output Areas
- CAS, ST and Statistical Wards
- NHS boundaries
- Electoral boundaries
- Administrative Boundaries

EDINA has built the various boundary datasets from 2001 Output Areas and all have appropriate names and codes so they can be used with Census statistics or statistical data from other sources.

2001 Census boundary data for Northern Ireland will be available soon.

edina.ac.uk/ukborders

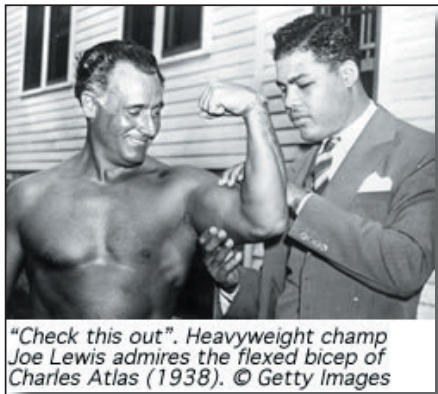
Education Image Gallery – a picture of health

EDINA's newest multimedia service became available for institutional subscription on 5 January, and is attracting considerable interest in the academic community. The **Education Image Gallery** service (edina.ac.uk/eig) offers images to download from the world-famous **Getty Images** archive (licensed by the Joint Information Systems Committee – JISC).

At the time of writing, over 250 Further and Higher Education institutions have taken up the one-month free trial.

The Education Image Gallery images cover key subject areas across the curriculum, including history, entertainment, sport, science, fashion, politics, music, conflict, film, art, leisure and women's studies.

To obtain a free trial, to subscribe or to find out about subscription rates, go to www.jisc.ac.uk/coll_hulton/Getty.html



Original Dumfries return online

The **Statistical Accounts for Scotland** service has an exciting addition to its already fascinating collection of historical documents. The **original manuscript** of the answers provided for the parish of **Dumfries** held in the National Archives of Scotland, has been scanned and is now available with a **transcript, introduction and additional notes**. It was written for the first Statistical Account by William Burnside,

Minister of Church in the town, and covers the 1790s.

As the first Statistical Account was produced by a team of clerks and editors, it is additionally intriguing to compare what Burnside wrote with what was actually published (vol 5, pp.119-144).

The Dumfries manuscript is only available in the subscription service either as a link from the front page or via the Dumfries parish page.

Projects into services

Try GefRef

GetRef is the name given to the shared service that has been developed as part of the Xgrain project. This JISC 5/99 project has been part of JOIN-UP, see www.joinup.ac.uk/xgrain for background details. The Xgrain (cross-grain) project focused on the design and implementation of software to carry out cross-searching of Abstract and Indexing (A&I) and Table of Contents (eToC) databases.

GetRef has an easy-to-use interface, intended to prompt students and staff to make use of the A&I databases licensed for them by their libraries. University and college libraries can opt to provide GetRef as part of their institutional library portals, via Z39.50, or as a direct end user service. There are a variety of options to allow 'look and feel' branding and other configuration.

GetRef provides OpenURL links to institutional resolvers, such as SFX and LinkFinderPlus.

A GetRef web site is in production which will contain background information to the service and details of how to subscribe. To discuss access to a demonstration version of GetRef, please contact edina@ed.ac.uk.



Try Go-Geo!

Go-Geo! is designed to help you find details about **geospatial datasets** and related resources within UK tertiary education and beyond. It is running as a **trial service** for the academic community until July 2004. As well as allowing you to search for information on geospatial datasets, it contains information on case studies, data format guides, major data providers, terminology, software, research and learning materials, subject resources, education/research, discussion groups and organisations. All sections are regularly updated, particularly news, training courses and conferences/events. To do a quick search of the datasets, type in a keyword or a (GB) place. The advanced search will find specific datasets, pictures, maps and articles of interest.

To try out Go-Geo!, visit www.gogeo.ac.uk We want your feedback on the additional resources you think should be linked from Go-Geo! To encourage you to complete the **User Survey** by 30 June, there is a prize draw for an **Amazon voucher**.

OpenURL Router - link to resolve

In the last issue of Newsline (8.2), we told you about the OpenURL standard, and the OpenURL Router initiative. We are pleased to announce that the OpenURL router is now available for use by UK HE and FE institutions.

The OpenURL standard, and a range of OpenURL resolvers, such as SFX and LinkFinderPlus, help address the 'appropriate copy' problem. The OpenURL Router provides the link to the appropriate resolver, linking to the OpenURL resolver in use at a given user's institution.

The OpenURL Router was developed in collaboration with UKOLN as a shared service arising from software written for the JISC 5/99 ZBLSA project, part of the JOIN-UP activities. See www.joinup.ac.uk/zblsa for background details. Activity in ZBLSA focused on linking a bibliographic reference found, say, in an Abstract and Index (A&I) database to the means to obtain a copy of the article.

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Other project news

JORUM: a store of learning

If you are interested in **re-usable materials for use in learning and teaching**, then you may be interested in **JORUM** (www.jorum.ac.uk), introduced in *Newsline 7.2/3*.



The **JORUM repository service** will gather together and provide learning and teaching materials on behalf of UK Further and Higher Education. EDINA and MIMAS are working together to scope, and ultimately provide, the service in a JISC-funded partnership.

The JORUM repository service will host "information assets" and "learning objects" for use by teaching staff in their courses. **Information assets** are individual items such as images, video clips and chunks of text.

Learning objects may include a number of information assets combined with learning objectives and sometimes assessments, to make stand-alone pieces of work that can be incorporated by teaching staff alongside other resources and made available to students in VLEs and other local learning environments.

Each resource can be re-used by other people, reducing the need for lecturers to recreate similar content. Sharing resources in this way can strengthen links in the education community, enhance teaching partnerships and save teachers time.

JORUM will also host teaching support materials, such as case studies and lesson plans, that are to be published by a number of JISC projects and services.

MIMAS are currently leading the work on behalf of JORUM to procure (under EU legislation) a suitable repository system, which will be installed at a data centre by the end of July 2004. The plan is that JORUM will be launched as a service in 2005/6, for use without charge for at least the first three years.

The report of the scoping study has now been published, and is available on the JORUM web site. Please take a look at it and see how you can get involved in the JORUM service. We need your feedback for setting up the service and providing support to teaching staff within your institutions. We will be discussing this at the "Join in with JORUM" session at **EDINA Exchange** on 11 May 2004 (see the back page for details). If you would like to know more about JORUM, please contact the project manager, Moira Massey, at moira.massey@ed.ac.uk.

NLN: tools for FE

The **National Learning Network (NLN) Materials delivery service** (www.nln.ac.uk/materials) offers high quality Becta-commissioned **learning materials to the FE community**. The materials cover a wide range of subjects and levels, tailored to the FE curriculum. There are currently 1000 objects available, with a further round of materials due to be released on a regular basis over the coming months.

EDINA, MIMAS (www.mimas.ac.uk), Becta (www.becta.org.uk) and JISC-funded Regional Support Centres (RSCs) are partners in the NLN delivery service which is funded by JISC. MIMAS leads on the technical infrastructure for accessing the materials using the Content Access Tool (CAT) which was created by Becta, whilst EDINA provides the helpdesk, and hosts the back-up CAT service. The RSCs support FE institutions directly and refer any unresolved queries to the EDINA helpdesk.

EDINA support staff have researched and produced extensive documentation on navigation methods, the tools required to assist this process and support for colleges to set up the service.

If you have any queries about the NLN materials, please contact your local RSC www.jisc.ac.uk/rsc

TIES II: key to authentication

The use of **digital certificates** as a means of authenticating individuals is becoming more widely accepted, and is a specific requirement of many services in the **Grid**. At present, the UK e-Science programme operates a **Certification Authority (CA)** designed as a relatively low-volume service for a modest number of researchers, based on open-source CA software.

It is likely that the e-Science framework will be expanded to include other communities, such as the social sciences and bio-informatics, and will require **the capability to issue certificates on a much larger scale**.

EDINA recently completed a project, **TIES**, to investigate and implement a pilot **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)** for Higher and Further Education (see articles in *Newsline* issues 8.2 and 7.4). A second study has been commissioned to follow up recommendations made in the TIES report. This study, **TIES II**, will investigate the feasibility of a **national certificate issuing service**.

The main focus of the original TIES project was the implementation of CAs based on the use of **open-source**, or out-of-the-box (bundled) software. One broad conclusion was that the open-source solution was insufficiently mature to provide a reliable and cost-effective service in the institutional context.

TIES II will therefore evaluate **commercial** PKI products to determine the relative costs and effectiveness of in-sourced (software only), or out-sourced (fully managed service) solutions, to help the JISC plan practical options for a longer-term CA service that is capable of satisfying the certification requirements of the extended e-Science community.

For more information about the TIES II project please contact Christine Rees, Project Manager, christine.rees@ed.ac.uk or Sandy Shaw, Technical Manager, sandy.shaw@ed.ac.uk, or visit the TIES II web site (edina.ac.uk/projects/ties2).

Profile and Conditions

EDINA has been carrying out a short study for the JISC into two possible shared services for the JISC Information Environment: one on **Institutional Profiling** and the other on **Terms and Conditions**.

These service components have been proposed as possible shared services within the JISC Information Environment (IE), providing part of the infrastructure upon which other services may be built. In broad terms, the services provide:

- an Institutional Profiling service which resolvers will inspect to discover information on institutional services, and preferences for OpenURL resolution;
- a Terms and Conditions service which provides machine-readable information about rights held in resources in the JISC IE.

The project seeks to help solve the "appropriate copy" problem for electronic resources: many information objects (such as journal articles) are available from more than one vendor, each governed by different access policy and conditions of use.

Conventional URL links are static and do not reflect the different rights enjoyed by users according to their institutional affiliation. Third-party services which provide links to information resources require knowledge of institutional rights in order to direct users towards the appropriate service in each case.

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OpenURL router – link to resolve

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The OpenURL has become the established means for passing on such information, and the use of OpenURL resolvers has flourished. The OpenURL provides the interoperability necessary for a user who has discovered a journal article or book to then locate a copy. Providers of A&I services simply provide users with links to their institutions' resolver, and choice of copy can then be handled by the local resolver.

The OpenURL Router works by offering a central registry of institutions' OpenURL resolvers. An institution registers details of its resolver just once, in the Router registry. When the resolver has been registered, any service provider can provide users from that institution with OpenURL links to their resolver. If an institution changes the URL of its resolver, the details need only be updated once in the Router registry, and the new resolver will be in service with immediate effect.

More information about the OpenURL Router is available at openurl.ac.uk/doc

Profiles and Conditions

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The study will attempt:

- to define the functionality required;
- to explore how such services could be implemented;
- to discuss how they might operate and interact with portals and other Information Environment services.

The study will take into consideration the various users, institutional practice and operational issues.

For more information about this study, contact Sandy Shaw, Project Manager, sandy.shaw@ed.ac.uk, or see edina.ac.uk/projects/iptc

EDINA Exchange

EDINA will be holding its first open day - entitled EDINA Exchange - on 11 May 2004 at the National E-Science Centre in Edinburgh.

After the Director's introduction and overview, the morning will provide the opportunity for service representatives, RSC staff and others to learn about service and project developments at EDINA. In the afternoon there will be parallel sessions, with the emphasis on discussion on a range of our service areas and user support topics. The day will finish with a presentation on the JISC collection strategy.

For further details of the programme and information on how to register for this free event please see www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/397

EDINA Exchange Programme:

- 09:30 - 10:30 Exhibition, registration & coffee
- 10:30 - 11:00 Director's welcome
- 11:00 - 12:15 Update on EDINA services and projects
- 12:15 - 13:45 Lunch, exhibition, hands on, demonstrations, meet the EDINA staff
- 13:45 - 14:45 Birds of a Feather - Parallel Sessions
(short presentations, emphasis on discussion – pre-booking required)
- 14:50 - 15:20 User Support Issues Parallel Sessions (pre-booking required)
(subjects to be provided by attendees)
- 15:20 - 15:40 Coffee
- 15:40- 16:10 JISC Collections Strategy
- 16:10 - 16:30 Q & A session
Director's closing remarks

Ei Compendex transfers

December 2003 marked the end of the five-year JISC-sponsored CHEST-Ei agreement for access to Compendex data and EDINA's role in providing the service for that period. We would like to thank users and support staff for their use and support of the service.

A new agreement is available from EduServ Chest, with service-provision directly from Ei.

Newsline

Discerning readers will note a new look to *Newsline*.

We have striven to walk the tightrope between improvement and conservation. The use of a more open typeface and the four-column layout gives the editor greater freedom in accommodating all the news and pictures our readership has come to expect.

See the online edition for improvements as well.

Forthcoming events

Events

EDINA will have stands or give papers at the following conferences and exhibitions:

JISC Conference 2004

23 March 2004 at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham
www.jisc.ac.uk/conf_intro.html

UK Serials Group 27th Annual Conference & Exhibition

29-31 March 2004 at UMIST, Manchester
www.uksg.org/events/annualconf04.asp

Library & Information Show

21-22 April 2004 at ExCel, London
www2.imark.co.uk/tls04/

Courses

Education Media OnLine Workshop, 29 March 2004, City University, London

Digimap, 30 and 31 March 2004, City University, London

Education Media OnLine Workshop / Education Image Gallery workshops, 5 April 2004, University of Leeds

Digimap, 6 and 7 April 2004, University of Leeds

Education Image Gallery/ Education Media Online workshops, 27 April 2004, Amersham & Wycombe College, Chesham campus

More information on the above courses can be found on the EDINA web site at edina.ac.uk/events/courses.shtml