

What do we need to know?

Your experiences working with images and time-based media resources (e.g. videos and sound clips), their metadata (information used to describe the resource), and services for finding and using them in learning, teaching and research. Your thoughts about the potential benefits of the aggregation (metadata collection) approach, the challenges involved, and what you might need for your organisation to get involved.

What are we trying to achieve?

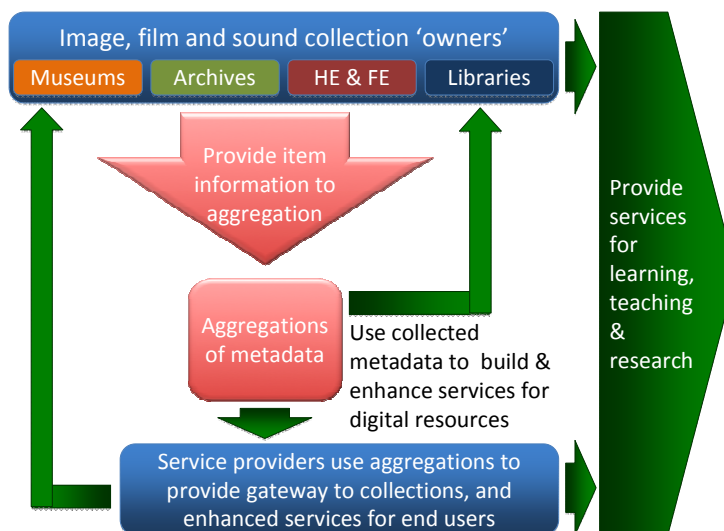
This is a JISC funded project to support the Resource Discovery Taskforce vision² of having a *collaborative, aggregated and integrated resource discovery and delivery framework*. We aim, for the good of the community, to:

- Explore what it means to have aggregations of metadata about images and time-based media, i.e. collections of information (e.g. catalogue information) *about* digital resources rather than collections of digital resources themselves
- Provide insight into the benefits of, and opportunities for, such collections of information
- Better understand the challenges and barriers to making open collections of metadata available
- Describe some scenarios in which collections of information about images and time-based media could be useful or required.

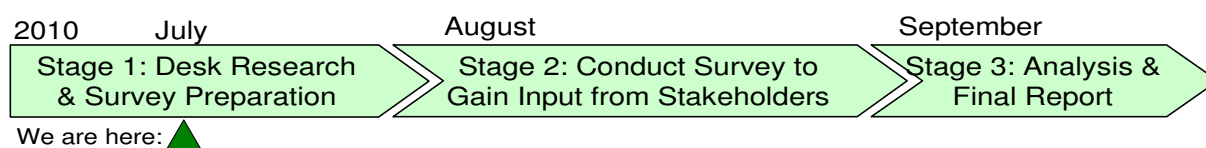
What is the challenge, and what is the aggregation approach?

There are many collections of images and time-based media that could be useful in education. Learners, researchers and teachers can be frustrated by technical, licensing, organisational and other barriers to discovering, exploring and using these collections, and many collections may remain little used, e.g. though lack of exposure to online search facilities.

One approach (see illustration) is to aggregate the item information from multiple collections, and support the development of services that bridge individual collections. These metadata collections should be open and sustainable to facilitate use and increase value to the research and learning community. This may also be able to support new ways of enhancing and linking resource information, such as machine recognition of places, people and objects that would improve collection accessibility.



What is the plan and timeline?



For stage 2 we need input from potential stakeholders, including users, collection holders, potential aggregators and service developers, staff at Higher and Further Education institutions, and organisations who support research and learning, for example, museums, libraries, commercial and non-governmental organisations.

¹ More information is available at: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/Aggregations_Scoping_Summary.html

² <http://rdtf.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2010/06/08/launch-of-vision/>