

# Newsline from EDINA

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### About EDINA

EDINA, based at Edinburgh University Data Library, is a JISC-funded national datacentre. It offers 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).

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Newsline is published by EDINA, part of the Information Services Group of the University of Edinburgh. Suggestions and comments on Newsline may be sent to [edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk)

The next edition of Newsline will appear in Summer 2005.

## SUNCAT steps into the light

<http://edina.ac.uk/suncat/>

The launch of pilot service was celebrated on 15 February at a **symposium in central London**. The mood was upbeat, with **the number of serial records in SUNCAT topping four million**, contributed by 22 of the UK's largest university and research libraries, the scope of SUNCAT expanded to include the British Library, National Library of Wales and National Library of Scotland and data from the CONSER database and the ISSN Register.

As the 'key online UK facility for serials', SUNCAT will assist researchers and librarians in the **discovery, location and access of serial material**, typically journals but including newspapers, annual reports and other 'ongoing publications'. SUNCAT will also assist libraries **upgrade local records** with standardised and high-quality bibliographic records.

Presiding at the symposium, Derek Law, Chair of the SUNCAT Steering Committee, stressed the significance of SUNCAT as having "the potential to lift the quality of serials records of all libraries up to an unprecedented level", and Andrew Green (National Library of Wales) emphasised SUNCAT's importance for the wider definition of researcher, and for legal deposit.

The JISC have now given the go-ahead for SUNCAT Phase Two. During the calendar years

2005 and 2006, SUNCAT will move from its pilot test stage to become established as a full service, with continuously increasing coverage of other university and specialist research libraries and with increased functionality. The parallel set of development ac-

to make contact with library staff and projects with interests in taking this further, as the development of SUNCAT will be fully integrated with other serials-focused activity in the JISC Information Environment.

SUNCAT is a collaborative venture, with Associate Partners acting as guides and playing a key role in testing procedures during Phase One, and with commitment and cooperation from contributing partners, including the British Library who have increased staffing to advance the assignment of ISSNs. The SUNCAT Team is establishing comparable relationships with up to 50 more contributing libraries.

SUNCAT has been developed at the University of Edinburgh by EDINA and Edinburgh University Library in partnership with ExLibris, providing and adapting the Aleph 500 software.

- key tool for researchers to locate journals and other serials
- allows librarians to upgrade local OPACs

tivities are geared to including information on 'open access' journals and to tackling tricky issues about standard ways to represent information on electronic subscription. The SUNCAT Project Team is keen



# EMOL News Roundup

## EMOL free until 2007

EDINA is delighted to announce that JISC has confirmed that the **Education Media OnLine (EMOL)** service will be **free** to institutional subscribers until 31 July 2007.

The term of the EMOL sub-licence will be extended accordingly. Existing subscribers need take no action now. Details of the procedure for extending the sub-licence will be circulated in due course.

## New collections

In the first three months of 2005 the first titles from **two new collections** were added to EMOL: **Royal Mail Film Classics** and **Digital Himalaya**.

EMOL's Royal Mail Film Classics is a selection of 16 hours of films from one of the finest UK collections of documentary, public information, animation and industrial film, covering subjects ranging across transport and communications in Britain and abroad, the Home Front during the Second World War, British industries from fishing to mining, the nation's health - and developments in the Post Office service itself. Credits for the films include some of the best-known names in the British documentary movement, including Alberto Cavalcanti and Humphrey Jennings.

Digital Himalaya in EMOL is a selection of approximately 50 hours of material from one of the best ethnographic film collections documenting Himalayan cultures, which was created by Christoph von Fuerer-Haimendorf, who lived and worked as an anthropologist throughout the Himalayas from the 1930s through to the 1980s. Digital Himalaya also includes footage from other parts of the world, such as Mexico.

## Using EMOL videos in science teaching

EDINA is also currently working with subject specialists to investigate current and potential use of the films and videos in EMOL in teaching.



Stills from Allomyces: Dichotomous branching, from the IWF collection.

At a recent EMOL seminar, representatives from the **HE Academy Subject Centres in Physical Sciences, Engineering, Materials and Life Sciences** volunteered to commission reviews of EMOL films and videos in their subject areas, in order to **evaluate how the films and videos could be used in teaching**.

The outcomes of this review exercise will inform the development of the EMOL service, in particular how the EMOL films and videos can be used in current teaching practice.

Teaching colleagues will be invited to a joint workshop in June 2005, to present examples of current practice of using video in teaching.

**In support of this, we are keen to obtain or assist the production of case studies of the use of EMOL films and videos.**

If you are interested in any aspect of this work, or If you have any queries about other aspects of the EMOL service, please contact the Helpdesk: edina@ed.ac.uk or telephone 0131-650 3302.

# Image albums in EIG

A new feature is being added to the **Education Image Gallery (EIG)** service hosted at EDINA that will enable individual users to create and organise their own personal collections of EIG images.

Called **"My Albums"** and available from anywhere within EIG, the new function is similar to the use of document folders in word-processing packages. **Users can create, rename or delete their own "albums" of images**, in which they can store (and delete) EIG images of their choice. EDINA believes that My Albums will prove an invaluable tool for using EIG images in learning, teaching and research.

My Albums is **available only to users logging into EIG via individual Athens accounts**.

My Albums is unavailable to users logging into EIG via Direct (IP) access because this form of access does not identify individuals, only groups.

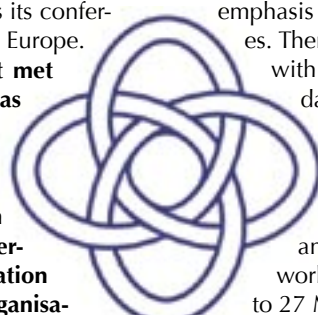
If you have any queries about My Albums or any aspect of the EIG service, please contact the Helpdesk: edina@ed.ac.uk or telephone 0131-650 3302.



It's easy to sort your images using My Albums in EIG. (Image: Big Brother © Getty Images)

# IASSIST comes to Edinburgh

IASSIST is more than splendid acronym for the **International Association of Social Science Information Service & Technology**. It is the organisation that has been bringing together **data professionals, data producers and data analysts** from around the world for over 30 years. Every four years its conference meets in Europe. **The last time it met in the UK was in 1993 in Edinburgh; it does so again, with IFDO (the International Federation of Data Organisations), from 25 to 27 May 2005.**



departments, research centres, government departments and non-profit organisations.

The conference is the forum for discussing both new and persistent issues relating to access to data, documentation of data, and digital preservation, with special (but not exclusive) emphasis on the social sciences. There are clear overlaps with digital curation, data publishing, and e-science and cyberinfrastructure initiatives.

The conference and a preceding workshop run from 24 to 27 May in the Holyrood Hotel, the National eScience Centre, the University of Edinburgh and Dynamic Earth. It is being hosted by Edinburgh University Data Library with assistance from EDINA, so we are getting busy. Look up <http://datalib.ed.ac.uk/iassist/> for more information.

# Shibboleth Federation to aid authentication switch-over

EDINA HAS ANNOUNCED the launch of the **SDSS Development Federation**, which provides an infrastructure that enables institutions to **investigate the use of Shibboleth technology for authentication and authorisation**. This technology enables a user to access **national resources by using local institutional credentials**.

Membership of the federation is open to any institution, but is initially intended for use by those participating in the **JISC Core Middleware Programme** (including development projects and early adopters). The SDSS project (Shibboleth Development and Support Services) is itself funded under this Programme and will be operational for its duration.

The SDSS federation currently contains a number of institutional (origin) members, and a variety of EDINA-hosted and MIMAS-hosted bibliographic (target) resources.

Both MIMAS and EDINA are in the process of **converting all their JISC-funded services**, so

over the next few months many more services will be added to those already available.

Institutions and projects can benefit from membership of the SDSS Development Federation in a number of ways:

- **SDSS provides technical support** which projects are free to call upon.
- Participation in an operational federation is **a more realistic test of your origin/target configuration** than purely in-house testing.
- Project work will be made **available to all federation members** without extra infrastructure set-up.
- Federation metadata may be used to **establish ad hoc groups of targets/servers** for projects experimenting with sub-federations.
- The availability of MIMAS and EDINA licensed resources **demonstrates to institutions the immediate utility of the technology**.



To join, please visit the SDSS web site at <http://sdss.ac.uk> where full details on membership of the federation are available.

# Opening the JORUM

Plans are under way to open up the JORUM in June this year. The JORUM is the JISC-funded national repository for learning and teaching materials, that will be provided as a free online service. The aim of JORUM is to promote the sharing, re-use and re-purposing of resources amongst Further and Higher Education Institutions in the UK.

This community venture needs your support. The JORUM Contributor Service begins on 1 June 2005, opening up the JORUM as a digital storage facility for any institution or project team that chooses to share its learning and teaching materials with colleagues in the UK. The initial purpose was to host materials that had been developed with public funding but this is now extended to materials developed with institutional funding.

The JORUM Depositor Licence is now available. If you are interested in contributing materials to JORUM, please contact the EDINA Helpdesk ([edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk)). We will arrange to send you the Depositor Licence and give you further information about the Contributor Service.

The JORUM will also be opened up to allow download of the learning and teaching materials. There will be a JORUM Repository Licence, which will have to be signed by institutions that wish to allow their teaching and support staff to preview and download materials from the repository. This service will be free and access will be via Athens.

The exact date for opening up the download facilities has not yet been fixed by the JISC. Register your interest and we will let you know as soon as the JORUM Repository Licence is available for signing by your institutions and the date from which your staff can get access to the download facilities. We will be looking to Contributor Institutions to help us test the download facilities.

Further information is at

## GetRef v.2

A new version of the **GetRef** cross searching (federated search) tool will be **released this summer**.

GetRef allows users to **execute a simple search across many different databases**.

The new version of GetRef offers **improved usability**, with an entirely **new mechanism for presenting the search results from multiple databases**. **Accessibility** has been paid great attention, and this version offers **full functionality with non-visual browsers**. GetRef is fully compatible with **Athens**, including **single sign on (SSO)** and **developed authentication (DA)** mechanisms.

Institutions with an interest in GetRef should contact [edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk); a free trial can be arranged.

## Statistical Accounts changes

The **Joint Board** set up to oversee the development and successful launch of the Statistical Accounts of Scotland service has now **entrusted EDINA** with the long-term archival care and continuing provision of the service.

The Editorial Board will continue, under the guidance of Dr Ann Matheson who acts as Hon. Editor, to assist the development of the service.

A **new version**, with a major re-work of the user interface and additional features will be released later this year.

The full service will now be available to all institutions on a subscription basis, where the intention is to cover running costs of hosting. Basic access to the pages will continue free-to-web.

The subscription service offers a range of search and display features for the scanned pages and underlying text. In addition the interface contains maps, tables and other related data from the volumes.

The Statistical Accounts of Scotland are a key historic resource, and in two series illuminates Scotland at the time of the industrial revolution.

For further information about the service, or to request a trial, go to <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/access> or email [edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk)

# Access to European maps and data

THE EUROGLOBALMAP TRIAL service offers a **seamless digital map dataset for Europe** at a scale of 1:1 million.

Users can **view and download for free** Europe-wide data provided by EuroGeographics, an organisation representing the majority of Europe's national mapping agencies.

Its small scale means EuroGlobalMap data will be of most use for background mapping, for example as contextual data for use in remotely sensed imagery captured at regional or global scales.

EuroGlobalMap is part of a global initiative run by the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM),

as a response of the global mapping community to Agenda 21, adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

A **feedback form** is provided on the web site, and we look forward to receiving **comments from the user community on the usefulness of this data**. The data will be available until September 2005 in the first instance.

Find more information and to find out how to access the trial service go to <http://edina.ac.uk/maps/global.shtml>

**EuroGeographics**  
<http://www.eurogeographics.org>  
**International Steering Committee for Global Mapping**  
<http://www.iscgm.org>



Visualisation of EuroGlobalMap data including Dunkerque and environs  
© EuroGeographics

## Access to British historic maps

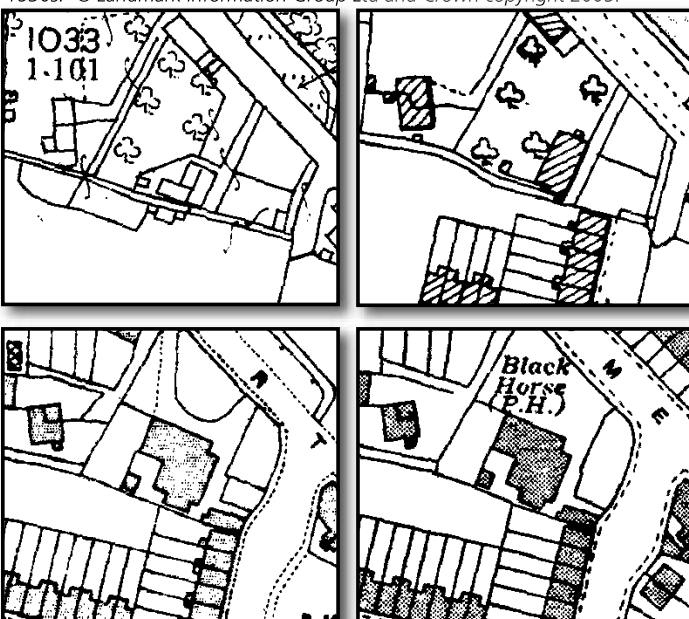
DIGIMAP HISTORIC, a pilot service to provide online access to the valuable **Landmark Historic Ordnance Survey map collection** (see Newsline 9.4) will be launched at the JISC Conference on Tuesday 12 April 2005.

A workshop on Digimap Historic will also be held at the conference.

JISC are offering a **20% discount** on a subscription in the first part year and first full year for current Digimap subscribers.

Details of the licence and subscription charges are available on the JISC web site, at [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/coll\\_digimaphistoric.html](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/coll_digimaphistoric.html) as is information on the forthcoming JISC Conference, at [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=conf\\_2005\\_intro](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=conf_2005_intro)

*Historic Ordnance Survey County Series maps of Monmouthshire showing landscape changes in Somerton (nr Newport) from the mid 1800s to the 1930s. © Landmark Information Group Ltd and Crown copyright 2005.*



## Z39.50 fix for Athens group accounts

Until recently, special provision had to be made for Athens group accounts that wished to use the EDINA Z39.50 targets, due to a deficiency in the underlying software.

This problem has now been overcome and Athens group (access) accounts can now log on to these Z39.50 targets from any IP address that is valid for the Athens group account.

## Forthcoming events

<http://edina.ac.uk/events/>

In addition to several upcoming training courses, EDINA will be exhibiting at the following conferences, to demonstrate its services:

**JISC Conference**, Birmingham, 12 April  
<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/conf2005>

**Library + Information Show 2005**,  
Birmingham, 20-21 April  
<http://www.lishow.co.uk>

**IASSIST**  
Edinburgh, 25-27 May  
<http://datalib.ed.ac.uk/iassist/>

**HE Academy - 1st annual conference**,  
Edinburgh, 29 June - 1 July  
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/conference.htm>