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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. 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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Suggestions and comments may be sent to edina@ed.ac.uk

New Digimap case studies

Digimap is used throughout UK higher and further education and across many disciplines. Forty new case studies have been collected to highlight this variety and the range of innovative uses.

Diversity

The case studies illustrate the diversity of research using Digimap OS, Historic, and Geology data and maps, and cutting-edge applications in GIS. They also indicate the variety of subject disciplines using GIS data from geography, architecture, archaeology and fields such as epidemiology, fine art and forestry. Topics range from pine marten predation in Scotland to the coal fields of South Wales, from transport development in Sheffield to the crimes of Jack the Ripper. The full case studies include titles such as:

- Neolithic visual environments on the Isle of Wight
- Neighbourhood variation in the incidence of psychotic disorders in SE London
- Terraincup: 3D Ben Nevis in a cup
- How has transport network development influenced the urbanisation of Sheffield since 1850
- GIS approaches to the military landscape of Roman Wales
- A GIS for the coastal system at Sandscale Haws, Cumbria



Terraincup: 3D Ben Nevis in a cup. Practice-based research project focused on developing a method for the physical manufacture of 3D objects with terrain based modelling elements.

Nick Groome, Ordnance Survey's External Research Manager, views them as "excellent examples of a very wide range of applications illustrating the use of geographic information. It's great to see the breadth of subjects using Ordnance Survey data and shows the importance of the Digimap service across all disciplines. We hope that these case studies will encourage others to explore the opportunities that this resource offers."

Digimap survey

We would like to thank all who contributed these case studies, either through the Digimap Survey in May this year or by online submissions using template forms. These add to existing case studies on the website, providing supplementary movies and site photographs to illustrate the topics. Some of the case studies are also linked to the GRADE project repository, with contributors providing datasets for sharing and reuse.

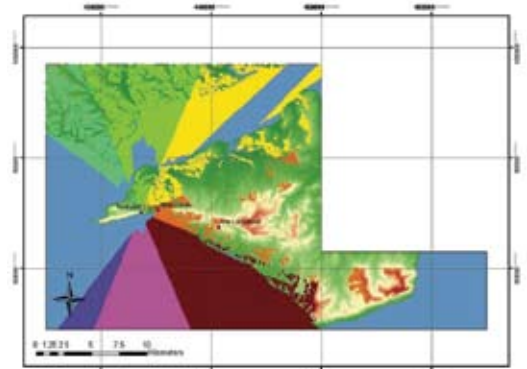
More examples wanted

If you have a case study example of research you have conducted using Digimap data please contact the EDINA Helpdesk (edina@ed.ac.uk)

We are particularly interested in Historic Digimap case studies. Details of how to submit these are available at <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/casestudies.html>

- New Digimap case studies: <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/casestudies/>
- GRADE project: <http://edina.ac.uk/projects/grade/>

Neolithic Visual Environments on the Isle of Wight. A series of viewshed calculations were performed for the three known Neolithic monuments on the Isle of Wight using Digimap DTM data and the ArcGIS viewshed functions and raster calculator. Base DTM built from data that is Crown Copyright/database right 2007. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.



COMPASS to show the way using coastal marine resources

The Coastal Marine Perception Application for Scientific Scholarship (COMPASS) is a new JISC-funded project to investigate the development of semantic tools for assisting those conducting research into coastal marine environments.

Led by EDINA, and having just had its 'kick-off' meeting, the project plans to demonstrate the benefits of developing an 'ontologically-driven' infrastructure for the marine domain, to address issues of discovery, access and use of scientific resources. The resources in question are data (specifically geospatial data), metadata and also citations to journal article and other resources.

Collaborations

Partners in the COMPASS Project include the School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh, the University of Muenster Semantic Interoperability Lab, the Digital Enterprise Research Institute at National University of Ireland, Galway, and Social Change Online.

This brings together established expertise in the following areas: semantics and ontologies; ontological/semantic registries, the use of semantics for automated service invocation; Semantic Service Description frameworks; information resources, geospatial data, metadata, web services and involvement in standards development.

Academic groups with an interest in coastal marine

environments are wide-ranging and include: Coastal Planning, Oceanography, Biology/Ecology, Fisheries, Maritime and Intermodal Transport, Geology and Archaeology.

Technical solutions

Intelligent web applications have great potential to collect information from many different sources, combine information, and present it to researchers in a meaningful way. However, this requires semantic description on those resources: books, data, articles, pictures, sound etc. For the semantics to be useful, computers must have access to structured collections of information and sets of inference rules that they can use to conduct automated reasoning. Ideally, computers must have ways to establish common meanings for whatever resources they encounter.

This is provided by collections of information called ontologies; the most typical kind of ontology for the Web comprises a taxonomy (classes of objects and relations among them) and a set of inference rules.

The COMPASS project, funded under the Knowledge Organisation and Semantic Services strand of the JISC Capital Programme, will be starting in December and will run through to March 2009.

For more information contact the EDINA Helpdesk.

- Helpdesk: edina@ed.ac.uk

Mind the GAP: geospatial repository searching

The Geospatial Application Profile (GAP) project builds upon earlier work for the Go-Geo! Portal – see details of Podcast below. As part of that project, EDINA has developed the UK Academic Geospatial Metadata Application Profile (UK AGMAP) to support the documentation and discovery of spatial datasets across higher and further education. UK AGMAP is based on the international geographic information metadata standard ISO 19115.

The GAP project will develop a Dublin Core Application Profile for cross-searching repositories for geospatial resources analogous to the recently published e-prints Scholarly Works Application Profile (SWAP).

The plan is that portals such as the Intute Repositories Search Project, part of the JISC Repositories and Preservation Programme, will make use of this profile to enhance their search service for content held within UK repositories and to examine the issues that surround retrieval. The first iteration of their work had focused on e-prints (research papers) only. GAP extends the work into the area of geospatial data to meet the discovery and descriptive requirements of the geospatial community.

- GAP project summary: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/GAP_summary.html

Podcast: Going geographical with Go-Geo!

Recent changes to the Go-Geo! portal have made a significant impact on learners, teachers and researchers in a range of subject areas.

In a recent podcast, Robin Smith – an analyst at the University of Sheffield and a regular user of the service – spoke to Philip Pothén for JISC's *Inform Plus* online magazine about these changes and the positive experiences users are having.

We have included a brand new Go-Geo! flyer with this edition of Newslines to inform and prompt readers to try out this free service.

- Podcast with Robin Smith (GIS analyst): <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/avfiles/news/interviews/podcast19robinsmith.mp3>
- JISC Inform: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/publications/inform19.aspx>
- Go-Geo!: <http://www.gogeo.ac.uk>

Marine Digimap on course to launch

As mentioned in the June issue, Digimap is due to have a new collection for the start of the new year.

Marine Digimap hydrographic maps and data from SeaZone will be added to the three existing collections. Access to this new service will be the same as for the OS Collection and Geology Digimap, with users having to register for Marine Digimap online.

Institutional subscription charges will range between £600–£3000 per year, depending on the JISC institutional bands and will be adjusted for the January start in 2008. Once the charges are finalised, they will be advertised on the JISC Collections and EDINA websites, complete with downloadable forms.

30-day institutional trials will be available from early January for those wishing to preview the service. Further information is available on the Digimap pages, and also appears within the Digimap interface for users to see.

- <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/description/marine.html>

Image from morguefile.com





DISC-UK DataShare project to demystify institutional data

Academic research datasets have special requirements for storing and sharing. The DISC-UK DataShare project, coordinated by EDINA, seeks to help Institutional Repositories (IR) in UK higher education meet these requirements. (DISC-UK is the Data Information Specialists Committee-United Kingdom.)

The project builds on the existing informal collaboration of DISC-UK members for improving their data libraries and models of social science data support.

Building closer relationships

The DataShare project will bring academic data librarians in closer contact with IR managers, fostering new forms of co-operation between these distinct groups of information professionals. It will identify training needs for both groups, particularly librarians unfamiliar with support of research data.

Based on a distributed model, the DataShare participants at four institutions (Edinburgh, London School of Economics, Oxford, and Southampton) are each responsible for the work on their own repositories; but their experience, support and knowledge are shared in order to increase levels of success. This network of institution-based data repositories develops a model for deposit of 'orphaned datasets', currently catered for neither by centralised subject-domain data archives/centres/grids nor by e-print based IRs.

Advantages for the community

The advantage for the broader community is to provide exemplars for a range of approaches dealing with datasets in IRs. These exemplars will be demonstrated using the three main open-source repository solutions: e-prints, DSpace and Fedora.

Policy and scoping documents, depositor agreement forms, preservation planning, software code and templates for institutional data audits will all be shared with the community.

EDINA is co-ordinating the project as a whole, drawing on its relevant experience from Jorum (repository of learning objects), GRADE (repository for geo-spatial data) and the Depot (filling in the gaps of IR provision for e-prints).

- DataShare website: <http://www.disc-uk.org/datashare.html>

New libraries added to SUNCAT

Two new libraries have recently been added to SUNCAT: the University of Dundee and the Royal College of Music.

The Royal College of Music represents the first significant collection of music serials to be added to SUNCAT and enhances the catalogue with information about titles not widely held in the UK, while the University of Dundee extends SUNCAT's geographic coverage as the ninth Scottish library in the catalogue.

SUNCAT now contains serials' holdings information for 66 UK research libraries; please see the map at the Contributing Libraries page for further details:

- http://www.suncat.ac.uk/description/suncatmap/Suncatsubs_final.htm

SUNCAT pilot MARC record download service

EDINA is releasing a pilot downloading facility for SUNCAT Contributing Libraries.

The pilot service enables the Contributing Libraries to download a subset of SUNCAT records in MARC format via Z39.50. The records are from CONSER, the Library of Congress Cooperative Online Serials programme.

There are over one million CONSER records available and these are of very high bibliographic quality and are particularly strong in their coverage of current Scientific, Technical and Medical (STM) titles. The records will be free of charge to SUNCAT Contributing Libraries, enabling them to download records for newly purchased serials or to upgrade their existing serials records.

We are currently unable to offer the entire SUNCAT database of records in MARC format due to IPR restrictions imposed by a commercial supplier on records supplied to our Contributing Libraries. However, the SUNCAT team are investigating methods of filtering out these records so that we can offer a greater proportion of the SUNCAT database for download.

Details of how to set up and configure the Z39.50 connection will be available at the SUNCAT website shortly. Please contact the EDINA helpdesk at edina@ed.ac.uk with any comments or queries about the pilot service.

- SUNCAT website: <http://www.suncat.ac.uk>

Statistical Accounts of Scotland user consultation

EDINA ran an online consultation from January 2007 to September 2007 to help shape the future development of the Statistical Accounts of Scotland service.

During the eight-month period, 119 users responded to the survey. Almost all of the respondents (97%) used the free browsing service, occasionally or once a month, for family history or historical research. The vast majority of the respondents (98%) rated the service as very good or good and found the service either very easy or quite easy to use (86%). The majority of users heard about the service through online searching or other relevant sites and newsletters.

The respondents were asked to rank eight future development options and voted the following as the top three priorities:

- More original parish returns
- More digitised resources associated directly with Statistical Accounts
- Facility to cross-search the Statistical Accounts with other related resources

Members of the Statistical Accounts of Scotland Editorial Board will continue to actively seek out parish returns and other related resources held in archives and museums.

- Statistical Accounts of Scotland: <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/>

NEOCaR supports JISC e-books project

EDINA is now providing NEOCaR, a support service for the JISC National E-Books Observatory Project, which offers a facility to download MARC21 records for cataloguers at subscribing universities to incorporate into their library management systems.

- NEOCaR at EDINA: <http://edina.ac.uk/neocar/>

New staff at EDINA

We have two new 'outward-facing' members of staff whom we would like to introduce to the EDINA community.

John Casey – Learning & Teaching Manager



John is responsible for managing the teaching and learning related aspects of EDINA services. This includes senior management responsibilities in the Jorum project, which is helping to build a community for the sharing, re-use and repurposing of learning and teaching materials.

John has considerable experience in supporting academics and subject specialists to design courses and learning materials

that benefit from the use of technology, especially in the context of introducing flexible and distance learning techniques into the mainstream curriculum. He has particular interests, involvement and experience in the following aspects of e-learning: Cognitive aspects of learning materials design; intellectual property rights in e-learning; learning design and instructional design; interoperability standards in education; and organisational and professional development.

Vivienne Carr – Training Officer



Vivienne Carr is our new Training Officer. An economics graduate, Vivienne worked previously in the oil industry before moving into education and completing a MSc in Adult Education. With experience of teaching in FE and community education, Vivienne is looking forward to working with EDINA staff and service users to develop new modes of training.

Forthcoming Events

Conferences and Exhibitions

GISRUK 2008

2–4 April 2008 at the Manchester Metropolitan University
http://www.unigis.org/gisruk_2008/

JISC Conference 2008

15 April 2008 at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham
<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/events/2008/04/jiscconference08.aspx>

Training Courses

MasterMap Workshop for Support Staff

13 December 2007 at the University of Sussex

MasterMap Workshop for Users

6 February 2008 at the University of Southampton

See the latest events and training information at:

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

Newsline survey results

In the last edition of Newsline (12.3), we advertised an online survey asking readers to answer a few simple questions about how they use Newsline.

We were concentrating on the format of the newsletter, and the general feeling was that readers like it as it is, and that there is no great demand for change. We asked specifically about the possibility of having an online version only. But half the respondents like the choice of having a printed copy, so we will carry on providing that in addition to the web version for the foreseeable future.

We would like to thank those who took the time to participate and we welcome continued feedback.

Festive images from Getty

These photos are a small sample of the wide variety of copyright-cleared Getty images in the Education Image Gallery, at EDINA.

We hope these seasonal shots will tempt you to have a further look at this tremendous resource for UK FE and HE, to which some 100 institutions already subscribe. 30-day institutional-wide trials are available for non-subscribers.

Alternatively, we have created over 20 Curriculum-Related Picture Trails to highlight other themes within the service. These are openly viewable on our website at:

- http://edina.ac.uk/eig/support/demo_trails/

Dancing On Ice



Christmas Kids



Christmas Mistletoe Blessed In Druid Ceremony



Santa Fun Run Held In Newtown