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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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An important year for repositories

A great deal of investment has been made to encourage the emergence of repositories over the past year or so, and the next year will likely be one for some appraisal, not only in the UK but internationally. This applies not only to institutional repositories (and subject repositories) intended to provide a means for sharing research papers through open access self-archiving (so-called “Green OA”), but also repositories sharing learning materials and research datasets. Many of these are doing things at the network level that are not readily done at local level.

The term “repository” is being used increasingly widely, perhaps overmuch, to describe databases held in all types of science data centres, and databases that are curated and held in stewardship to support the wide variety of research data services provided by the two JISC national academic data centres, EDINA and Mimas. The usage in this context relates to facilities for sharing: at the minimum, supporting deposit, keep-safe and access.

This seems a good time to highlight the contribution that EDINA is making to the development of repository provision and thinking.



Developed and hosted with Mimas, Jorum was one of the first of JISC’s network level repositories, and contains online learning materials. The service now has the challenge of supporting JISC and the Academy in their joint work to promote and enable sharing as part of the Open Educational Resources (OER) Programme during the 12 months beginning April 2009.

The Jorum Team have responded with three licensing regimes, including JorumOpen, which uses Creative Commons. There are also a number of support actions being devised to assist the projects funded under the OER Programme.

The website has recently received a refresh following user feedback and the shift in its mission, with links to the new Community Bay for discussion and collaboration; the place to air views about issues such as sharing OER. The website also contains up-to-date news, and user guides are available, together with highlights of the many featured resources within Jorum and podcasts for download.



Not all sharing is with “open” material: EDINA has been pioneering development of sharing within a licensed community, the product of the GRADE project (re-named ShareGeo). This was devised to support sharing of Ordnance Survey data and mapping downloaded from Digimap across institutions.

Accessed from the Digimap Collections main page, in the Find and Share section, this facility enables registered users of Digimap to exchange geospatial datasets with one another in ways that respect the conditions of the licence.

Geospatial datasets in a number of formats (raster, vector and tabular), derived or user-generated, can be shared, covering Great Britain but also for anywhere in the world.



The Depot was commissioned by JISC to support the JISC RepositoryNet initiative, to ensure that all researchers in the UK had some way of depositing their published output, whether or not there was an institutional repository (IR) in operation. Working with SHERPA, EDINA took this remit and developed an online facility with a re-direct function (where the researcher had an IR) and a deposit function (where the researcher did not).

The project funding has come to an end, prompting a review of the future for the Depot as an online facility to support Green OA.

We would like your feedback during March on the role you see for the Depot: see page 2 for further details.

We welcome your feedback on our repository initiatives. Review these online at:

<http://www.jorum.ac.uk>

<http://edina.ac.uk/projects/sharegeo/>

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

and let us have comments via our Helpdesk at edina@ed.ac.uk

Reviewing the role of the Depot

As mentioned on page 1, project funding for the Depot comes to an end in 2009. We are inviting comments during March 2009 on its future role.

The Depot provides two functions in support of Open Access self-archiving, the so-called "Green OA". The first function, "redirection", links authors/researchers with their local institutional repository (IR), using identity recognition and the OpenDOAR registry of IRs. This assists potential depositors and helps IRs acquire content.

As yet, not all researchers have a local IR. So the second function, "deposit", the principal reason that JISC asked EDINA and SHERPA to set up the Depot as part of its Repository Programme, has been to provide a national place of deposit for academic authors lacking an appropriate IR. Both functions, redirection and deposit, are computer-aided and without mediation by library or other support staff – unlike many IRs.

The existing Depot service will be fully supported until at least 30 September 2009. During April 2009 or shortly thereafter we will decide what to do, based upon feedback from you and on any other developments, then use the following six months to enact an agreed plan. This might include re-branding or changing the mission and message, arranging the transfer of the limited content that we have in the Depot to some other repository, or even handing over the running of the Depot to another body.

The Depot was never planned as a central repository to rival institutional repositories; rather it has complemented them by assisting researchers do what may be required of them by mandate from their funders.

Preliminary discussions with advocates of OA self-archiving have indicated that there is value in continuing the Depot in order to assist OA sharing of research output not only in the UK but also internationally, especially where IR capacity is not yet comprehensive. There has also been discussion about how to develop the redirection capabilities more generally, including support of OA deposit mandates by funding bodies; for example, by advising their funded researchers to "Go to the Depot" to locate the appropriate IR.

We have been carrying out our own appraisal of options for the exit strategy beyond project funding. But we need to be positive that continuing the Depot will add value as a support activity for the open access agenda, or else when and how to close the Depot. Please give us your views.

Comments should be sent to edina@ed.ac.uk, marked "Role of the Depot".

Wellcome addition to Film & Sound Online

EDINA is pleased to announce that the first titles in the new Wellcome Film Collection have now been added to Film & Sound Online.

Users are able to witness the evolution of medicine and health over the past 100 years and engage with the use of film as a communication tool in the medical sciences.

Many of the films were originally made for professional audiences such as doctors, surgeons, nurses and students of medicine, so some of the material of a more sensitive nature is available to medical students only.

Representing the seventeenth separate collection to be included in Film & Sound Online, 212 films became available on 26th February. A further 230 or so Wellcome titles will be added in batches in a process due to finish in December 2009.

The core collection consists of about 60 Wellcome Trust titles that were made by the corporate arm of the organisation, in the guise of the Wellcome Foundation. The earliest footage is of archaeological digs in the Sudan, at Gebel Moya, featuring the founder, Sir Henry Wellcome himself (*A day at Gebel Moya, season 1912-13*), as well as more jaunty corporate fare about the business of running a pharmaceutical company (*Looking Around, The Story of the Wellcome Foundation*).

Subscription to Film & Sound Online is free to UK FE/HE institutions, and all current subscribers have immediate access to the Wellcome Film Collection.

We welcome feedback on the content to edina@ed.ac.uk or via the **Keep in Touch** link within the service, which also allows users to register an email address for alerts to new material as it appears online.

- <http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk>

Stills from a selection of films in the Wellcome Film Collection.
All images © Wellcome Trust

'Living anatomical model'



'Foxgloves in medicine'



'Ergot: the story of a parasitic fungus'



'Feet'



CAB Abstracts service improvements

In a recent service upgrade, EDINA implemented a new version of its CAB Abstracts database, which now offers more features:

- Database updates will now be weekly rather than monthly
- Links to exclusive CABI full-text supplement the existing linking to articles via OpenURL resolvers or directly to publishers' websites
- All databases have been rebuilt to improve performance.

Subscribers have access to the new service and free trials are available for non-subscribers.

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

Gold from straw: usage log data – what are they good for?

How useful is aggregated usage data harvested from institutional OpenURL Resolvers and from the national OpenURL Router Service? This is the question EDINA seeks to address in a short JISC-funded project: Shared OpenURL Data Infrastructure Investigation.

In the online information environment, staff and students take various routes in search of the information that they need for research and study. Their libraries seek to facilitate those searches by redirecting requests to appropriate (e.g. subscribed) sources. In the course of these investigations, students and researchers build pathways that may be useful to others.

Informed by the MESUR project at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the US, JISC has commissioned EDINA to scope the feasibility and value of a service that will capture those trails and harness their value. EDINA is exploring the feasibility of creating a database from aggregated usage log data, and the value to the UK HE community of services derived from that database; for example, providing useful recommendations for 'related texts' as well as evidence of emerging trends in scholarship and the value or impact of specific resources within the community.

EDINA is also considering the technical, administrative, legal and policy issues associated with an initiative that may provide services to the community as a whole, as well as to individual institutions.

- Shared OpenURL Data Infrastructure Investigation: <http://tinyurl.com/sodii>
- OpenURL Router Service: <http://openurl.ac.uk/doc>
- MESUR Project: <http://www.mesur.org/MESUR.html>

UK federation news

The JISC Access Management Transition Programme formally came to an end in 2008. However, JISC and Becta continue to support the roll out of access management within their respective sectors. This includes funding the SDSS team at EDINA, designated by JISC as an Expert Group in Identity Management (see the March 2008 edition of Newsline). SDSS also provides UK federation technical support and development.

- <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/amtransition/programmemanagement.aspx>
- <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/amtransition/sdss.aspx>
- <http://foi.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=14598>

Training courses are provided by Netskills and JANET(UK). A new forum for discussion following events is now provided by JANET(UK) Training.

- <http://www.ja.net/services/training/index.html>
- <http://www.netskills.ac.uk/content/projects/jisc-fam/index.html>

Institutions are encouraged to share experiences with their peers through case studies, mailing lists and at community events and forums.

- <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/content/Documents/CaseStudies>

The Shibboleth 2 software is fully supported within the UK federation. This support includes online documentation and training courses to help with configuring and registering Shibboleth 2 SPs. Support for Shibboleth 1.3 is scheduled to end on June 30 2010.

- <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/content/Documents/RegisterEntities2>
- <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/content/News/2009-02-17-1p3-end-of-life>

For up-to-date information please see the UK federation news page.

- <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/news/>

Survey of European National Mapping Agencies

Access to core geospatial datasets (topographic digital map data, administrative units, hydrography, geology, etc.) is critical for academic research and teaching in almost every discipline. It is well recognised that finding and gaining access to such data is difficult, hence the existence of services like Go-Geo!, UKBORDERS and Digimap. When a researcher or student moves beyond their home country looking to access international geospatial data, the difficulties are compounded.

EDINA is currently conducting two surveys with the help of EuroGeographics, a pan-European organisation representing 52 National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs) from 43 countries across Europe, and AGILE, the Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe.

The first is a survey of the NMCAs in each EU member state to establish the current arrangements for the supply of geospatial data to the academic community in that country. The second is a targeted survey of key, but representative, academic users in each country regarding their experiences of access to NMCA data in their country.

For UK academia, Digimap has radically eased access to national mapping data. Anecdotal evidence suggests that things are not so easy for researchers and students in other European nations. In some cases, national security concerns may mean that data are not in the public domain. Where data are in the public domain, access is limited by commercial price levels. Where discounted prices are available these are still beyond the funding available to the majority of university departments or research groups. Often data are available only for geographically and/or temporally constrained areas or on an ad hoc, case by case basis. Certainly, data are not freely available to large numbers of users in a consistent, timely or transparent fashion.

In order to assist UK researchers and students to gain access to European geospatial data, first EDINA needs to understand in more detail how access to core geospatial data is arranged in each European country. Secondly, we need to work with researchers and academic staff in other countries to improve access to national geospatial datasets.

We are looking to work with researchers and academic staff in other countries to persuade NMCAs within each member state to make their data products available to their own academic communities. Following on from this, we hope that reciprocal arrangements can be made for access to data between member states across the European academic community.

It is intended that both surveys will be completed by Easter 2009 and will form the baseline assessment of the current state and future needs of European academics for access to national mapping data. Around this time, and again with the help of EuroGeographics, we plan to hold a workshop with representatives of NMCAs and academic users, to report the findings, and to progress the initiative further by encouraging data providers and academics to work together to provide mutual, tangible benefits to all stakeholders. A report will be published and circulated to relevant European organisations. The findings will also feed into the EU funded European Spatial Data Infrastructure Network (ESDIN) project in which EDINA is involved.

- http://www.eurogeographics.org/eng/00_home.asp
- http://edina.ac.uk/projects/ESDIN_summary.html

New media advisory website offers support for EDINA services

A JISC advisory service whose remit is relevant to several EDINA services has changed its name and scope of action. Formerly known as TASI, JISC Digital Media offers support and advice for moving images and sound, as well as still images.

The activity of the new advisory service supports the three multimedia services that EDINA runs: Education Image Gallery, Film & Sound Online and NewsFilm Online. Users of any of those services are encouraged to consult the new website, which is extensively linked from the EDINA website, for information and further links.

- <http://www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/>

Home page for the new JISC Digital Media Service

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

In this issue of Newslines we'd like to offer an expanded edition of our regular list of forthcoming training and conference events, and announce a new line of training: Online Workshops – 45 minute interactive demonstrations of services.

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

TRAINING

EDINA Digimap – Digimap Collections
<<http://edina.ac.uk/events/digimap2.html>>
31 Mar - 2 Apr 2009, University of Leeds

EDINA Digimap – OS MasterMap for users
<<http://edina.ac.uk/events/mastermap3.html>>
22 Apr 2009, University of York, York

EDINA Multimedia Services
<<http://edina.ac.uk/events/multimedia2.html>>
6 May 2009, RSC North West, One Central Park, Manchester, M40 5WR

EDINA Digimap – Digimap Essentials
<<http://edina.ac.uk/events/digimap-essentials.html>>
4 Jun 2009, Bilborough College, Nottingham

EDINA Digimap - Digimap Collections
<<http://edina.ac.uk/events/digimap3.html>>
9-11 Jun 2009, University of Exeter

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Digimap Collections – Site Representative Information
25 Mar 2009, 12pm – 12.45
Has your institution recently subscribed to any of the Digimap Collections? This session covers the key information required by Digimap site representatives to ensure compliance with the licence agreement and start to effectively support users.

Marine Digimap – Making maps
8 Apr 2009, 12pm – 12.45
An overview of the contents of the Marine Digimap service, with a demonstration of making maps.

Digimap OS Collection – Data Download services
15 Apr 2009, 12pm – 12.45
This session looks at the content of the Data Download service within EDINA's Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection, demonstrates the data downloading process and discusses geospatial data formats.

Digimap OS Collection – OS MasterMap data
29 Apr 2009, 12pm – 12.45
This session considers the features of OS MasterMap data and demonstrates the MasterMap download process within EDINA's Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection.

Introduction to NewsFilm Online
13 May 2009, 12pm – 12.45
NewsFilm Online was launched in October 2008 and is free to UK Further Education and Higher Education until July 2012. This session will introduce the available ITN and Reuters archives content and demonstrate how to search, browse, play and download video news.

Marine Digimap – Downloading Data
27 May 2009, 12pm – 12.45
An overview of the contents of the Marine Digimap service, with a demonstration of data downloading and discussion of data formats.

CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

UKSG Annual Conference 2009
<<http://uksg.org/event/conference09>>
30 Mar - 1 Apr 2009, Riviera International Conference Centre, Torquay

GISRUK 2009 (GIS Research UK)
<<http://www.ceg.ncl.ac.uk/gisruk2009/>>
1-3 Apr 2009, Durham

Learning on Screen
<<http://www.buvc.ac.uk/learningonscreen/>>
7-8 Apr 2009, Wellcome Collection, London

RSC Yorkshire Humber - Summer Conference
2 June York Race Course

RSC Scotland South and West
12 June Glasgow Science Centre

RSC East Midlands e-fair
<<http://info.rsc-em.ac.uk/events/>>
23 Jun 2009, Walkers Stadium, Leicester

RSC North West Annual Event
<<http://tinyurl.com/rsc-annual-event>>
25 Jun 2009, Theatre and Convention Centre, Southport

Higher Education Academy - Annual Conference 2009.
<<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/conference/>>
30 Jun - 2 Jul 2009, University of Manchester

RSC Eastern e-fair
<<http://tinyurl.com/rsc-eastern-event>>
3 Jul 2009, Epping Forest College