Archives and Technology Special Issue

Darwin
ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

Explore the writing and publishing process of Charles Darwin's most famous book, 'On the Origin of Species' through items in the John Murray Archive. Use the main navigation above or the timeline below to get a fascinating glimpse into the world of 19th century publishing.

EXPLORE THE PUBLISHING PROCESS

01 INSPIRATION | 02 WRITING | 03 AGREEMENT | 04 PROD

When did you last click on
www.archives.org.uk?

We're working hard to improve the website and make it the one-stop-shop for everything you need to know about your Association and the archive and record-keeping world.

Read the latest news and views. And share some views of your own on the community pages. Forgotten your password? Send an email to membership@archives.org.uk – and you're ready to join in!

contents

14   18   31

Achives and Technology Special Issue cover images:
A gold signet ring found near Holy Trinity Church which possibly belonged to William Shakespeare, 1.6 x 1.9cm. Image provided by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, © The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.
Top: National Library of Scotland's Learning Zone website.
Middle: Three children at St Nicholas' Home, Byfleet, Surrey, 1901. © The Children's Society.
Bottom: Photograph of a naval officer from the Giddy collection, MSS/82/054.
© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

EDITORIAL

Welcome to October's issue of *ARC* magazine.

This month we have articles from the Section for Archives and Technology (SAT). The variety of subjects covered, from developments in cataloguing software to the creation of an app by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, demonstrates something of the broad remit that SAT holds. This remit is explained by the Section's chair, Sarah Higgins, in an article that describes how SAT has evolved out of the Data Standards Group.

Given the technological nature of the Section's work, it might have been expected that articles came to the editorial team via online file sharing software, complete with a tracking spreadsheet. However, digital tools alone are not enough and a good deal of old fashioned organisation was also evident. My thanks go to Amy Hurst and Lisa Greenhalgh for their sterling efforts.
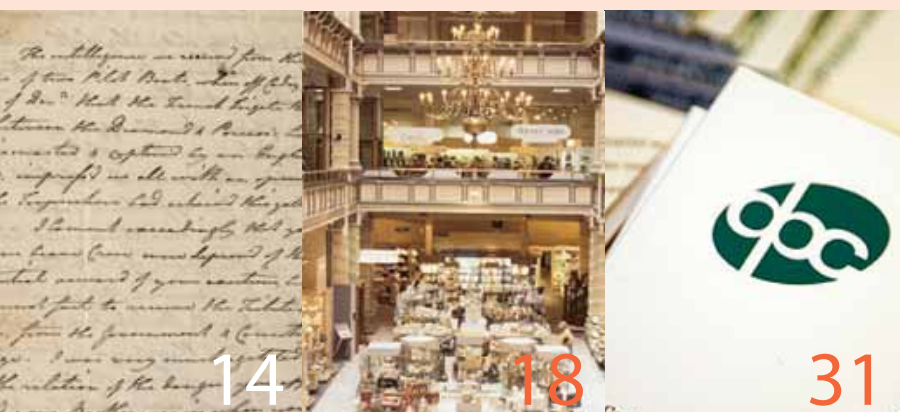
It sometimes seems as though few things stir the emotions of our profession quite like the application of technology. It produces cynicism and enthusiasm; the so-called traditionalist may roll their eyes at the latest innovation whilst the convert bemoans the approaches of those perceived to be stuck in their ways. Regardless, as Sarah comments, technology pervades all aspects of what we do. There's no escaping that fact and it's to the profession's credit and advantage that we can look to the Section for Archives and Technology for inspiration, advice, motivation and perhaps even reassurance. We must all approach the use of technology in a way that best suits ourselves and the needs of our wider organisations. I hope this issue adds to the ongoing process of deciding just what that approach might be.

Elsewhere in the issue we have news about the successful completion of projects; how funding helped reveal the archives of the Children's Society; and how access to uncatalogued collections has been improved at Royal Museums Greenwich. Thanks to everybody who has contributed articles. Enjoy the issue.

Richard Wragg, Gary Collins, Ceri Forster, Sarah Norman, Rose Roberto

Opening Lines

Alexandra Eveleigh is currently working towards a PhD researching user participation in archives, based at UCL in partnership with The National Archives. This *Opening Lines* is a personal reflection commenting on the place and value of research within the UK archives profession.

Towards the end of 2009, I made an uncharacteristically risky decision, choosing to give up a permanent job as Collections Manager at West Yorkshire Archive Service to become a full time PhD student.

I am quite sure that many of my colleagues, not to mention my mortgage advisor, thought I was fairly mad. Although most archivists, records managers and conservators will have undertaken postgraduate education in their specialist field, the proportion of UK professionals with a doctorate is tiny (and many of these are in history, not archives), and the number of academic posts in our sector fewer still. I guess my own career experiences up to 2009 are not atypical: having endured, more than enjoyed, my year's professional 'training', I had been eager to get stuck into practical archives work. My few points of contact with an academic discipline of archives (which had hardly existed at all when I qualified in 1997) during my years as an practitioner came via the occasional conference and a rare glance inside the yellow(-ing) covers of *JSA*.

So what prompted my decision, and what did I hope to get out of my return to university?

It was not that there was any shortage of tricky challenges to be tackled in managing and providing access to the extensive and rich collections at one of the UK's largest local authority archive services. But there was not often the opportunity or the resources to consider fully how our work at West Yorkshire contributed to the wider archival landscape, or to reflect on the directions in which our practice might be taking the profession itself.

Of course, I involved myself in various support and best practice networks within the Society of Archivists, and later ARA, and related UK professional organisations, and became proficient at researching, planning and evaluating grant project proposals. But for the most part my work was internally focused and practice-led (and constrained), whereas I found my greatest inspiration came from outside of my local comfort zone: from the private sector managers I met on a management diploma course, from colleagues working in tourism and the performing arts, from scientists and technical experts involved in digital preservation research. Such external stimuli prompted me to question aspects of archival orthodoxy, and the appropriateness of received archival practice to a world transformed by the pervasiveness of a new digital culture from the one which had existed only a few years previously - when I had learned on my Masters a body of theory still fundamentally (through Jenkinson) grounded in Public Record Office practice from the turn of the twentieth century.

In 2008, I won a Churchill Fellowship to research digital archives in Australia and the USA, and added overseas professional practice to my source list of influences. I was struck by the way in which practice and research symbiotically intertwined in most of the projects I visited; operational innovations shaped by a particular theoretical framing, new research questions and understandings arising from practical trial and error. I began too to recognise shortcomings in my own preparations for this research trip, and - on my return - limitations both in the channels available to me as a practitioner archivist for the dissemination of my findings, and in the lack of precedent for research collaborations for a UK local government archives.

My PhD study then has given me the opportunity to update and rethink my understanding of the core frameworks which underpin our professional practice. In so doing, I have learnt new generic research skills, and also sought out further fresh perspectives from academic disciplines as diverse as psychology, economics, computer science, and even astronomy, which are fundamentally changing my views (no longer constrained by an allegiance to an employer) on the mission for archives in the 21st century.

I am yet to read all the way through Jenkinson's *Manual*. I aspire to complete my thesis without having done so.

Alexandra Eveleigh
University College London

Archives & Records Association
UK & Ireland

ARA CONFERENCE 2013

28 - 30 August 2013

Hilton Hotel - Cardiff

Collecting Matters

Without agreed data standards, we've little chance of connecting distributed collections and helping researchers find what they need.

For *The Record* of London 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad, building a distributed collection is one of our main aims.

We're gathering information on where sporting and cultural activities have taken place; identifying potentially valuable records; and encouraging deposit of those records with archives across the UK to secure a long-term documentary legacy of all aspects of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

And this is a legacy not only for researchers, but for events planners, policy-makers, teachers and learners.

Because *The Record* had other strategic aims which trumpeted the wider benefits of archives and records management: supporting the actual delivery of the Games; encouraging openness and transparency; ensuring legal and regulatory compliance to reduce organisational risk; and providing evidence for public scrutiny and accountability post-London 2012.

And we should *all* be accountable.

Evaluation studies have already begun to assess the impact of the Games across the UK and this is where your collecting matters.

Do you have records which provide evidence of that impact on your own communities? Are you actively collecting to reflect the diversity of audiences and their London 2012 experiences in your local area?

Tell us what you've collected for *The Record* and become part of the distributed collection:
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/olympics/

And talk to us about data standards so we can increase the chance of better connecting that collection, wherever it's held.

Cathy Williams
Head of Collections Knowledge, The National Archives
asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/policies/
collection-strategies.htm

Registration Scheme News

Stop! Hold on. Don't just turn the page.

I know this is the Registration Scheme News section. It's the bit of ARC for those members of the profession enrolled on the Scheme or already registered. It's the bit that you normally skip over before getting to the features. But have you thought about enrolling on the Scheme?

For some, the answer to that question is 'yes, but I can't find a mentor'. That's a problem the Registration Scheme Sub-Committee has been aware of for some time. A candidate's relationship with their mentor can be incredibly important and finding the right fit can be difficult. In truth, finding a mentor at all can be difficult. Many people haven't had the luxury of being able to approach somebody who they feel will be a good match; haven't started to consider geographical location or sector of the profession. Many haven't been able to find a mentor at all - and have given up looking, given up with the Scheme, as a result.

To try and ease the process of finding a mentor, the Sub-Committee has compiled a list of willing mentors. This will soon be available on the ARA website; log in and take a look.

More generally, Registration Scheme Workshops are a good way to find out about the scheme; meet other professionals thinking about enrolling; and generally investigate whether working towards becoming a Registered Member of the ARA interests you. Perhaps now's the time to attend and, as luck would have it, a workshop is taking place in November. See the advert elsewhere in this issue for details. I hope you can make it - and thanks for reading.

Oh, and the workshops are also useful for mentors and candidates already enrolled on the Scheme!

CONTACTS:
General Registration Scheme Enquiries:
<registrar@archives.org.uk>
Registration Scheme Events Enquiries:
<regschemeevents@archives.org.uk>
Registration Scheme Admin and Bursaries:
<regschemeadmin@archives.org.uk>
Registration Scheme Communications Officer:
<regschemecomms@archives.org.uk>
Registration Scheme Mentor Queries and Advice:
<regschemementors@archives.org.uk>

Richard Wragg
Communications Officer, Registration Sub-committee

Registration Scheme Workshop at London School of Economics Library, Monday 12 November, 1-4.30pm

This FREE half-day workshop is suitable for candidates, referees, mentors and anyone interested in enrolling on the scheme or becoming a mentor.

It will provide the opportunity to:
- Find out about the Registration Scheme: Why do it? What are the personal and professional benefits? What does it involve?
- Work through the four development areas: Formal training courses; Study and research; Work achievements; Contributions to the profession
- Work through Learning Outcome Forms: Motivation; Achievement; Evidence
- View successful portfolios
- Ask questions about the Registration Scheme

Programme Structure:
13:00-13:10 - Arrival & registration
13:10-13:50 - Overview of the ARA Registration Scheme; Role of the candidate and mentor; Personal Development Planning
13:50-15:15 - Getting to grips with the four areas of development; Learning Outcome Forms
15:15-15:45 - Tea/coffee; View binders from some of the successful candidates; Individual queries
15:45-16:30 - Support; Frequently asked questions; Discussion and round-up

The maximum attendance for the workshop is 20. Book early to avoid disappointment (no later than one week prior to the date of the workshop)

To register for the workshop, please contact Kate Jarman, ARA Registration Sub-Committee Events Coordinator at regschemeevents@archives.org.uk

'Including the Excluded' project complete

Janine Stanford reports on the successful completion of the Children's Society's project.

THREE S. NICHOLAS' CHILDREN.

Three children at St Nicholas' Home, Byfleet, Surrey, 1901.
© The Children's Society.

The Children's Society Records and Archives Centre recently received funding from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives to open up access to The Children's Society's records relating to the care of disabled children. We are happy to announce that the project, entitled 'Including the Excluded', has now been completed.

As a result of the project, several catalogues have been produced which list records relating to The Children's Society's work with disabled children. These include records of the homes set up specifically by the charity to care for disabled children. Examples of these homes include St Nicholas' and St Martin's Home in Surrey, Bradstock Lockett Home in Merseyside, and Halliwick School in London, although there are of course many others.

An important part of the project was the cataloguing and indexing of the individual case files of disabled children that were in The Children's Society's care in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These case files offer a fascinating insight into the lives of disabled children during this time and contain many stories that have not previously been heard.

The catalogues also list the records of The Children's Union, which was a pioneering fundraising body that raised money, almost entirely, through donations from children. The money raised went on to support the children cared for by The Children's Society. For over fifty years, there was a strong link between The Children's Union and the support of disabled children.

The Children's Society Records, Archives & Data Protection Manager, Ian Wakeling said: "This project has given us a unique insight into the circumstances of disabled children in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. It showed how medical and social care given to them by The Children's Society allowed them to lead as normal a life as possible. The charity's approach to disability was ahead of its time and the records document this."

In addition to creating new catalogues, the 'Including the Excluded' project has helped to repackage and preserve 600 of the earliest case files relating to disabled children. Many of these case files were in poor condition, making them difficult to handle and leaving them in danger of sustaining further damage over time. With the help of a dedicated team of volunteers, the case files were cleaned and repackaged, leaving them easier to use and ensuring that they will be preserved for years to come.

'Including the Excluded' has opened up a range of records that were previously inaccessible, making them available for future research. The wealth of information that the records contain can help to explain what life was like for disabled children in The Children's Society's care. It is a history that, until now, has remained unexplored.

Further information about the 'Including the Excluded' project and The Children's Society's work with disabled children, including a blog showcasing items found within the collection, have been placed online on the 'Including the Excluded' web pages: http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/including_the_excluded

Janine Stanford
'Including the Excluded' Project Archivist

Boys at St Martin's Home, Surbiton, Surrey, 1904.
© The Children's Society.

OUR SURBITON FAMILY.

Beyond Archives': Catholic Archives Society Conference, Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 May 2012

Barbara Vestry writes about an enjoyable conference that took place earlier this year.

Delegates from archives dotted round the UK and Ireland met up for the annual Catholic Archives Society three-day conference, held this year in the grounds of Buckfast Abbey in Buckfastleigh, Devon. The 43 delegates included lay archivists, members of male and female religious orders, representatives from diocesan archives, academics, historians and others with an interest in the archive collections held by religious orders and Catholic communities.

On Monday afternoon delegates were by turns mildly shocked and very amused by the talk given by Sister Clare Veronica Wyman entitled "This puffball" - Monsignor Thomas John Capel 1836-1912, Searching for the Truth', as she related the exploits of this flamboyant social climber of the late 19th- and early 20th-century Church in London. A man "ruled by self-will", Capel brought many converts to the Catholic Church but was at the same time a womaniser and a bankrupt; he was eventually suspended "for all time" by Pope Leo XIII in 1886. Sister Clare Veronica's paper was notable for its academic rigour and excellent research.

The afternoon's session was devoted to a talk by archivist Jenny Smith and Sister Barbara Jeffery of the Sisters of Mercy, who gave a fascinating overview of the work that has gone into the development of the centre at St Mary's Convent in Handsworth, Birmingham. The Centre has been transformed into a modern facility with displays, exhibitions, outreach programmes and a regular programme of events. See http://www.mercyhandsworth.org.uk for more about the work that has gone on and the new St Mary's Centre.

Day Two saw a morning session led by Dr Eddie Jones of Exeter University, who delivered a fascinating paper about the Syon Abbey collection, now held at the University. Dr Jones presented an insightful and informative history of the Abbey, from its foundation in Twickenham by an order of Bridgettine nuns in 1415 via the Order's many travels after the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII - to Flanders, France, Spain, Portugal and finally back to England in 1861 - to the Abbey's eventual closure in 2011. It was following the closure that the Abbey's collections were transferred to Exeter University.

Later that morning delegates were treated to a tour of Buckfast Abbey Church. This included a talk about textile conservation and a chance to look at some of the Abbey's stunningly intricate embroidered vestments led by conservator Eileen Powell.

In the afternoon, delegates had a choice of events: a trip to Exeter Cathedral, to Exeter's newly refurbished Royal Albert Memorial Museum, or to the Syon Abbey Library Collection at Exeter University. Those visiting the Cathedral were treated to a tour of the building. They were able to view the Cathedral's strong room and a small display of documents and artefacts including an embroidered altar cloth. Those on the tour of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum were given the opportunity to admire RAMM's beautiful new look after its grand re-opening in December 2011. It was a chance to explore the range of fascinating displays and exhibitions, from their Fine Arts collection and geological curiosities, to the work of winners of the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition. At Exeter Library, visitors were shown some of

the valuable and unique manuscripts in the University's Archive and Rare Book Library.

Free time could be spent wandering around the lush grounds of Buckfast Abbey or enjoying a walk by the River Dart. Delegates also had the opportunity to visit the wonderful gift shop, bookshop and Monastic Produce shop, with goods and produce from abbeys throughout the world.

On the evening of the second day, the CAS AGM was held, with reports from the Chair, Margaret Harcourt Williams; the Secretary, Sarah Maspero; the Treasurer, Sr Benignus O'Brien; and the Publications sub-committee representatives, Paul Shaw and Jenny Smith.

On Day Three a range of issues were discussed in an open forum. Bishop Christopher Budd celebrated a Mass which gave thanks for the work of archivists. There was also a talk delivered by Andrew Rathbone called 'Using Archives to Evaluate the Cultural Significance of a Modbury Townhouse'. This featured research into the history of a local house and its context in Devon's past, using maps of different periods, deeds, extant fixtures and fittings, photographs found in the local history library and other resources.

Next year's CAS conference is scheduled for 20-22 May 2013 in Swanwick, Derbyshire. There are also training days planned on archival accessions and assortment, and care of photos. For more information, please visit www.catholicarchivesociety.org.

Barbara Vesey
Society of the Sacred Heart
(England and Wales)

Intergenerational oral history project: Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions

Nicola Waddington explores the benefits of working with a variety of age groups.

The Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions has undertaken an oral history project between elderly sisters from the Congregation, local residents and local school children, to celebrate their 150th anniversary in 2012. Collecting oral histories not only added a new, personal angle to the history of the Congregation but also provided stimulation and memory recall for the elderly sisters, many of whom have dementia and memory problems. The project had no funding and was completed using existing staff time and digital recorders lent by the school.

The Congregation has an education remit, although most sisters have now retired from teaching. To commemorate this in the project a partnership was formed with a local school. Pupils aged 12-13 carried out some of the interviews and produced transcriptions. They conducted the interviews in pairs using pre-prepared questions, some of which they had drawn up themselves and some of which were prepared in advance, depending on their interviewee's life stories.

The children were taught the basics of interviewing and oral history skills in the classroom, while the elderly sisters undertook some reminiscence work using their own archives as warm up sessions before they met the children. The children also made a preliminary visit to the convent to familiarise themselves with the building, its history, and its residents. Although many of the sisters would not remember the preliminary visit they reacted very positively to the sight of the children, which aided their relaxation

> "
> One sister who is 101 years old met a man of 79 who she had last taught when he was six.
> "

and memory recall when the children visited the following week to undertake the interviews. Familiarisation by both children and elderly sisters was an important part of getting better quality interviews.

Learning outcomes for adults

For the elderly sisters the sight of young people in their convent brought about an excitement and energy that they rarely experienced on a daily basis. Exploring their own heritage with a new generation for an audience created a new energy that some are still experiencing months after the event. Participants who can remember the project show excitement when they are reminded of it. For those who cannot remember, they still associate the archivist with something positive, even if they do not recognise her from one hour to the next.

An unexpected outcome too was that some of the residents of the local village turned out to be past pupils of the school that the sisters ran. Several who came to the convent for their interview were re-introduced to sisters who were their past school friends or teachers. One sister who is 101 years old met a man of 79 who she had last taught when he was six. They both gained considerably from the meeting and the energy of their conversation increased as the meeting progressed. There is work being done in the museums sector on health, happiness and wellbeing and this project has demonstrated well the positive impact on happiness and psychological wellbeing amongst all the adult participants. Even for the archivist and younger sisters who had helped make the project possible there was a sense of pleasure and achievement in bringing about these experiences for others.

Learning outcomes for children

The children's learning outcomes were different. Their reflections show an awe of the new horizons that had opened up in front of their eyes. They had spoken to sisters who had worked in Papua New Guinea; who had climbed

> " The children were hearing about lives they did not know could exist. "

Mount Kilimanjaro; who had travelled extensively in their work to run an international missionary congregation or who had worked in some of the poorest or most dangerous countries in the world. They were hearing about lives they did not know could exist.

Some commented on the privilege of being able to speak to people who had experienced what they (the children) could only read about, while others reflected on the new skills they had learned in listening, following verbal conversation and then trying to transcribe the tapes. They also gained an understanding of oral history and the idea that what is not recorded does become lost. To quote one pupil, Izzie, directly: "This experience has taught me that oral evidence is very valuable because the people who were alive then have so many stories that people don't really bother to ask about. I think they enjoy being asked and remembering their past"

Learning outcomes for archivists

The interviews have been of varying quality. We do have many good scripts (and a few bad ones) to be 'saved' in the archives but the project was not just about recording history. It was about taking part, having a new task to think about, meeting new people, meeting old friends and experiencing enjoyment. This article will inform archivists as to the possibilities of working with these age groups but it is perhaps the care profession that will also gain from this project. As archivists, we know what archives can do but it is hoped to write about this project in the professional care press as well. Many care managers will have no idea as to the possibilities of reminiscence, history and archives. By taking it to them, in their professional press, we will be communicating directly to them, rather than just to ourselves.

Nicola Waddington
Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions

© National Library of Scotland.
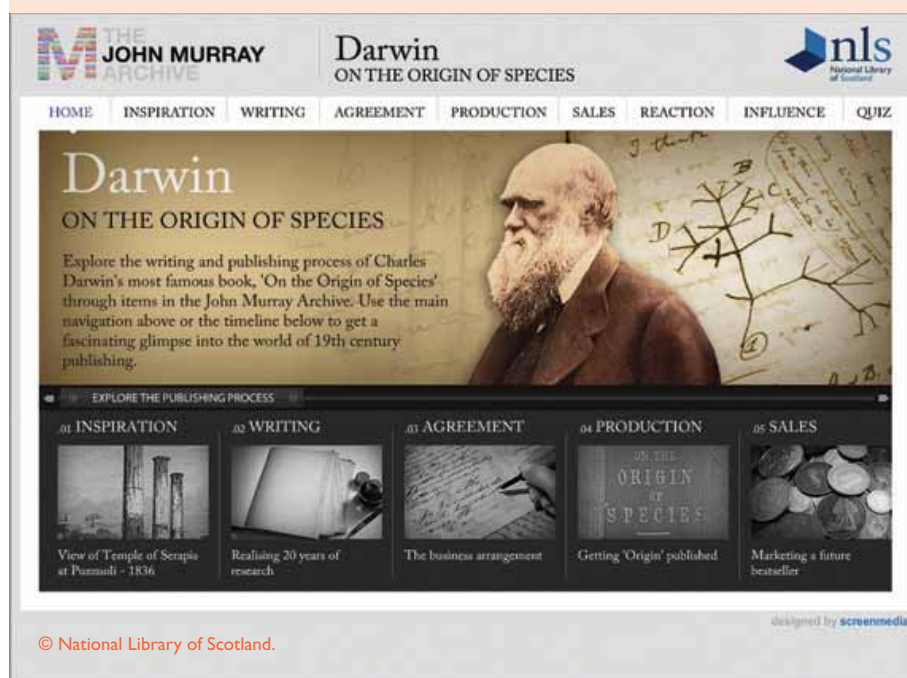
Collaborative Learning at the National Library of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland's Learning Zone, the area of the website dedicated to students, teachers and self-directed learners, is bringing the Library's collections to life through a collaboration between the Education Officers and Curators.

Beverley Casebow and Alice Heywood make up the NLS Learning Team and they have been liaising with curators to create fresh, compelling and engaging online resources for The Learning Zone. They are bringing some of the Library's vast archive of manuscripts and other collection items to life through subject-led interactive features aimed at students, teachers and self-directed learners.

Created with the framework of Scotland's 'A Curriculum for Excellence' in mind, these resources present primary source material chosen in conjunction with curators and offers learners a fresh way of approaching NLS collections. Placing importance on how the material is presented visually on the screen, the resources allow users to critically examine what they're seeing, letting them come to their own conclusions rather than presenting them just with a list of facts. The learning is very much in the hands of the user. It is an opportunity for people to engage with the collections and to find information in a different way.

One of the first features to be created for the Learning Zone was 'A Guid Cause'. A group of teachers from across Scotland worked with Education Officer, Beverley

© National Library of Scotland.

> **The focus is very much on placing learning in the hands of the users.**

Casebow, and NLS curators Maria Castrillo and Helen Vincent, through a week-long teacher placement at NLS to research the women's suffrage movement in Scotland. Using images, manuscripts, and film clips from the Scottish Screen Archive, there are three cross-curricular projects aimed at secondary school pupils and teachers which includes suggested activities. Pupils are able to download the primary resources to continue working on their project as a group away from their computer. One of the unique aspects of this resource is that it enables pupils to examine primary source material which they can interpret and curate for their own school projects. This material, once only available physically at NLS, is now being given a new lease of life by a younger generation across Scotland who are shaping it for their own learning. You can see the resource at www.suffragettes.nls.uk/.

A different way of using archive items explores the writing and publishing process of Charles Darwin's major work. Funded by the John Murray Archive at NLS, 'On the Origin of Species' traces the evolution of the work itself through rarely seen manuscripts. Selected by John Murray Archive curator, David McClay, and working with Education Officer, Alice Heywood, the manuscripts are presented in distinct 'windows', while key information is accessible in an adjoining window in easy to read, bite-size chunks. Users are able to zoom in/out examining the detail of Darwin's writing while an easy-to-read transcript is presented next to the original. A general introduction provides the casual user with enough information to understand each manuscript, a separate tab provides more detailed information for anyone wanting to delve deeper. The feature provides both the casual and more specialist user with an interactive narrative of the history of the book, from its inspiration to its legacy. There is also a short quiz to test your knowledge! Go to www.digital.nls.uk/jma/who/darwin/.

Topic-led 'Themes in Focus' and resources examining some of the Library's regular 'Treasures' displays are another way that the Learning team and curators are introducing NLS collections to a wider audience. Recent features have focussed on David Livingstone, Scottish Labour History and Women in the Great War, with more to come.

With their expertise in NLS holdings, curators can select a wide range of fascinating material that would normally only be available to users physically visiting the Library. Through a collaborative process, the Education team then presents a visual story of a particular topic, selecting items to create a series of activities and discussion questions about each item. To help contextualise some of the material, the Learning Team create short films in which the curators and other experts offer personal responses.

The collaboration between NLS Curators and the Learning Team encourages 21st century learners and general users not simply to digest information but to evaluate it and add their own knowledge and opinions. The focus is very much on placing learning in the hands of the users - to help learners develop the critical skills to analyse and evaluate. Perhaps they will even go off and create their own content which will one day be collected by the National Library of Scotland for future generations to learn from.

www.nls.uk/learning-zone

Alice Heywood
National Library of Scotland

E Tenebris: Bringing Collections to Light

Mike Bevan discusses a project to improve access to uncatalogued collections.

Last year, the manuscripts team in the Archive & Library department at Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG) initiated a collections enhancement project which resulted in the generation of 168 new collection-level catalogue entries. Focusing on larger uncatalogued collections, this made each collection record fully searchable on the internal museum database, Mimsy, and externally on the online archive catalogue (www.rmg.co.uk/archivecatalogue). The records now include biographical information, title entries, contents lists and acquisition details.

This project was part of a wider initiative to improve access to the manuscript collections. It was brought about by the temporary move of the collections offsite, whilst stores and a reading room were being built in the new Sammy Ofer Wing at Royal Museums Greenwich. With the collections temporarily moved offsite for the building of the new Wing, the Library ran an interim service which gave staff the opportunity to make enhancements to catalogue records. The collections were moved back onsite into the new stores in late 2011. The full Library service, with access to all the manuscript collections, resumed in January 2012.

The collections enhancement work developed out of a project, begun in 2009, which was required in preparing the move of the collections into the new stores. This larger project was also influenced by the implementation of Aeon, a new online ordering system which records the access history of our archive and library collections, and functions to facilitate ordering, retrieval, viewing and re-

Photograph of a naval officer from the Giddy collection, MSS/82/054.
© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London
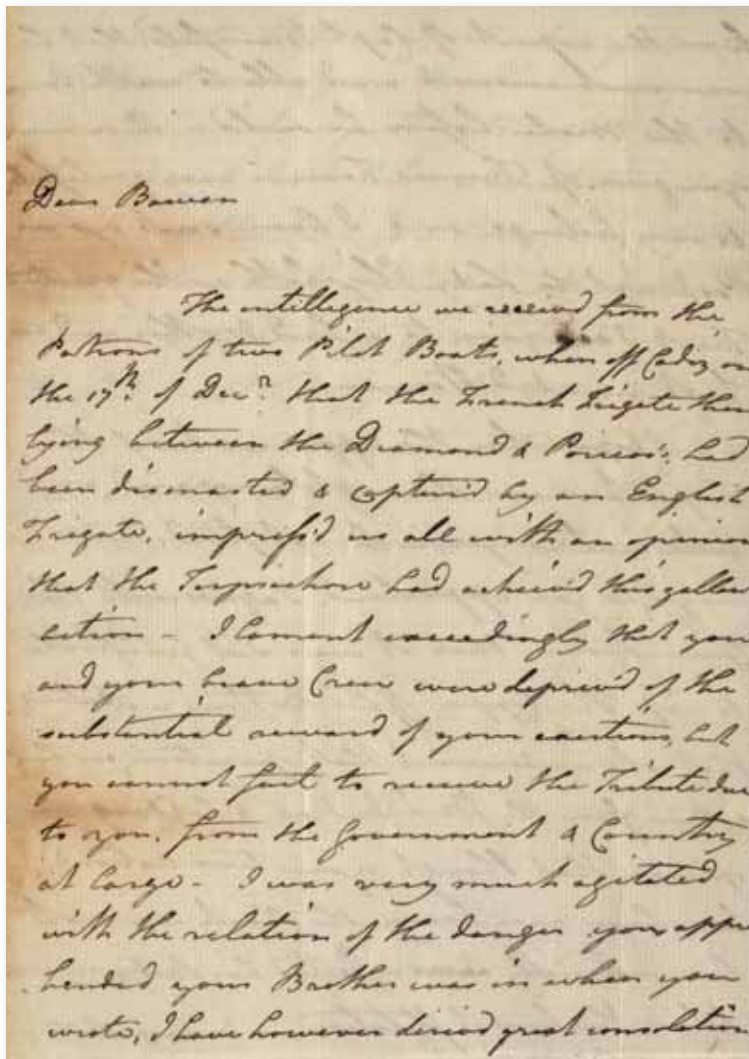
Letter from the Bowen and Hoste collection, MSS/95/001.
© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

> 66
> **Previous data was simply inadequate in reflecting what a collection contained.**
> 99

shelving archive and library material. The collections enhancement project involved enhancing the records of as yet uncatalogued material by adding administrative and biographical histories and box lists, in advance of a full cataloguing project. Previous data was simply inadequate in reflecting what a collection contained; often it was not even clear whether a catalogue entry referred to a large collection or a single item.

The collections enhancement project allows users to select what they wish to see from looking at the basic contents list in the collection level record. Users can then contact staff and ask that they make a request using the online ordering system on their behalf. This is an interim measure to improve access to the collections, prior to their full cataloguing in the future.

> 66
> **A photograph album offers a vivid insight into life at sea during the First World War.**
> 99

Highlights of documents uncovered during this project include a set of fifty-three letters written by Admiral John Jervis to Captain Richard Bowen between 1783 and 1797. Bowen was a distinguished naval officer and captured several French and Spanish prizes. He is perhaps best known for his heroics in the aftermath of Jervis's victory at the Battle of Cape St. Vincent. Letters written by Captain William Hoste to his family whilst serving at sea between 1794 and 1814 are also significant. Hoste had a distinguished career in the Navy with famous successes in the Adriatic during the Napoleonic Wars. Finally a photograph album covering the career of Osman Cyril Horton Giddy whilst a midshipman, offers a vivid insight into life at sea during the First World War. The range of photos uncovered includes animals at sea, battleships at Scapa Flow and officers in humorous poses. Due to the work undertaken on these uncatalogued papers, these fascinating collections and many others can now be more easily found and accessed by our readers.

Mike Bevan
Royal Museums Greenwich

Welcome to the ARA Section for Archives and Technology

This edition of *ARC* features work from members of the Section for Archives and Technology (SAT), which I hope you will find both useful and inspirational. We are not a new Section of the Association, but we have recently changed our name from the Data Standards Group to better reflect the activities and interests of the members, and our status within the Archives and Records Association. You can read more about the changes in the article on page 22.

The intersection of archives, records and technology is an active area for both research and practical implementation to ensure Jenkinson's "moral and physical defence of the archives" in the digital age. Technology pervades all aspects of caring for archives and records whether it be improving accessibility to information about records through Web based finding-aids, caring for born-digital records over the long-term, or enabling remote access to archives through digitisation.

Members of the SAT are often working at the cutting edge, developing practical solutions for immediate problems. In this edition we hear about a range of innovative projects. The *Step Change Project* and the *House of Fraser Archive Project* have used different methodologies to improve online resource discovery. The *AIMS Project* reports on a trans-Atlantic initiative to identify a framework for the stewardship of born-digital archives. *History to Herstory* has re-vamped and re-purposed a collaborative digitisation project, while the *Digital CoPs and Robbers: Communities of Practice and the Transformation of Research Project* investigates the effects of digital technologies on academic research. The use of mobile technology as an educational tool is investigated in a report on the experience of setting up an app to support a walking tour.

Members of SAT are also prominent on other specialised communities of practice and this edition of ARC features reports on both UK Web-archiving initiatives, and the latest on the continuing development of the international standards EAD and EAC.

> "
> Members of the Section for Archives and Technology are often working at the cutting edge, developing practical solutions for immediate problems.
> "

SAT administers the Archives and Records Association associate membership of the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) and attend their planning days and AGM. The Executive Director reports to us on recent activities at the DPC while the recipient of ARA's free training place at their *Digital Resilience and Preservation* event reports back on the experience. ARA receives one free training place at every DPC event and members are eligible to apply for any competitive grants which they offer.

SAT meets twice a year offering a lively programme of speakers and debates. Our next meeting will be in London in October 2012 and will consider the skills and education archivists need for digital preservation. The summer meeting will be at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust at Stratford-upon-Avon and will look at some aspects of digital collections. Keep your eye on the ARA website and the *archives-nra* JISCmail list for further details. It's always a pleasure to welcome new faces.

Sarah Higgins
Chair, Section for Archives and Technology

History to Herstory: the data quality archivist's story

The History to Herstory online collection of records documenting Yorkshire women's lives began in 2003 as an ambitious digitisation and resource discovery project. By 2010 the website was failing to deliver a satisfactory user experience and JISC funding was secured by the University of Huddersfield and West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYAS) to revive a remarkable resource. Robert Clegg, Data Quality Archivist for the duration of the five-month project, revisited the experience in conversation with Lisa Greenhalgh.

What decisions defined the project?

The foundations of a brilliant digitisation project, enormous in size and scope survived, but both search and access were failing. From the number of enquiries received about it, WYAS knew that demand for the resources from users was there. Within the first two weeks, the decision was taken to abandon any attempt to repair or resurrect the old version, and to rehome the collection using Calmview as the public interface.

Why was it broken?

This was difficult to pin down exactly but several issues came into play. The resource was created using 60-70 collections from several repositories, and there were as many cataloguing conventions. Searches failed, for example, where abbreviations for names crept into descriptions attached to images. Any hierarchy had been lost, and in many cases there was no description attached to individual images that would have compensated for this. For example, 30,000 individual female case files from the Stanley Royd asylum had been digitised but they could only be found using the exact patient name.

What was the most testing aspect of the project?

Performing a manual check on 90,000 images was essential and found 10,000 duplicates - but was tedious. There was no full list of contents, and it was impossible to know whether what had been digitised had ever been accessible via the website.

And the most surprising?

That after five months of a computer-based job I had still acquired in-depth collections knowledge from handling digital content.

What was the biggest achievement?

Using Calm cataloguing software and Calmview was an obvious decision with expertise on hand at WYAS to help get the most out of it. But the aim was to make the resource as accessible and user-friendly as possible, and there were reservations about how users unfamiliar with searching archive catalogues would find the experience. So adapting Calmview to best suit the resource was a challenge. Putting standard Calmview features to new uses helped accommodate successful features of the original website - so the image gallery hosts collections arranged by theme simply by creating corresponding 'fake' collection level entries.

What did you get out of it?

Skills in decision-making, problem-solving, real world cataloguing and the satisfaction of being immersed in transforming a brilliant resource.

http://www.historytoherstory.org.uk/
Catalogue at http://library.hud.ac.uk/calmview/

Robert Clegg
History to Herstory Project
(Interviewed by Lisa Greenhalgh)

Strategy and Collaboration: Digital Resilience and Preservation, 21st May 2012, at the Wellcome Conference Centre, London

An ARA funded place allowed Stephanie Nield to attend a fascinating conference.

I was lucky enough to get an ARA funded place on the Digital Preservation Coalition's (DPC) one day workshop on digital resilience and preservation at the Wellcome Conference Centre in London. The DPC seemed pleased that ARA demand for a place was high. From the attendees' viewpoint, the workshop agenda offered a variety of topics from different organisations across the world, and touched on real life scenarios as well as more academic approaches. Initial coffee and 'networking' showed that there was a wide range of attendees, so all in all the auspices were good.

The introduction asked 'What is Digital Resilience and Preservation, and how does it affect us?' This was seen as more than protecting against technical obsolescence - in fact, technical obsolescence was seen as a red-herring; if there is no focus on digital preservation now, then there will be no records with technical obsolescence to deal with in the future. Another point made was that the software industry is not always our friend in this regard; they often have no immediate financial interest in open format solutions to long term preservation. This affects preservation activity and resilience, i.e. being able to access and use trustworthy electronic information in the face of today's rapid technological change and restricted finances. Digital resilience (which includes preservation) affects archivists, records managers, IT departments and everybody in between who uses a computer and wishes to be able to access, understand and trust electronic records both now and in the future.

If concentrating on technical obsolescence is not the road to take when tackling digital resilience, what is? The current thinking, as expressed by all the speakers - Tom Clareson from LYRASIS, John Lindstrom, Lulea University Sweden, Angela Dappert from the DPC , Mykola Galushka from the TIMBUS project and Tim Callister and Rob Johnson from The National Archives - is that digital resilience should be an intrinsic part of business continuity planning and be promoted as a risk management activity within organisations.

Any of us who have been involved with health and safety or information risk assessments are familiar with this approach, and using such tools has its advantages. There is usually some risk management awareness in organisations, with the added benefit that influential people at the top of the organisation structure know what it means. Fitting in digital resilience as part of an overall business strategy to minimise risk could do much to get away from the 'siloing' of responsibilities that can happen with matters archival or technological. It gives a common language, a common structure and can be tailor-made to fit your organisation - all markers for success.

Tools were circulated to help, including the PLATO tool (http://www.ifs.tuwien. ac.at/dp/plato/intro.html) which mimics the Risk Management standard ISO 31000 and helps to define costs, format and performance constraints. There is also DRAMBORA (http://www.repositoryaudit. eu/) a risk management tool for digital preservation and the TIMBUS project (http://

> **Finding the hook to get senior management buy-in was discussed - the risk of reputational damage was agreed as the most motivating.**

timbusproject.net) another tool designed to help align digital preservation to business continuity.

The amount of work such an exercise can take became apparent; it certainly isn't a task for one person to take on alone. The message was that the response should be in proportion to what is required, and to make it a collaborative task. There is a danger of getting bogged down in detail when a more strategic driver is needed - so come up with a strategy first. Finding the hook to get senior management buy-in was also discussed, and the risk of reputational damage was agreed as the most motivating.

There are lessons to be learned from the USA. Tom Clareson from LYRASIS (www. lyrasis.org) talked about how 9/11, the East Coast Blackout in 2003, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Irene in 2011 have raised the profile of business continuity and digital disasters countrywide. They have invoked a grass roots response based on collaboration between organisations. Local museums, archives and libraries have taken the initiative and forged relationships with emergency services and other institutions

> "The workshop agenda offered a variety of topics from different organisations across the world."

to take control of business continuity planning. Now, instead of being stored in the next building or town, back-ups are being kept in different states with different political, power grid and weather systems (see the Alabama Digital Preservation Network http://www.adpn.org/index.html).

The Pittsburgh Alliance for Response (http://www.heritagepreservation.org/afr/Pittsburgh/index.html) was given as a model for UK cites. Pittsburgh has included business continuity vendors, local emergency services and the All Hazards and Counter Terrorism Task Force in their plans. The Occupy movement is a new business continuity concern: things are changing all the time. Tools have also been developed in the USA including d-Plan, the online disaster planning tool (http://www.dplan.org/) and the Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel (http://www.heritagepreservation.org/).

It was suggested in the panel discussion that perhaps because of our more stable weather patterns (at the moment!), northern Europe does not share the same drivers for better digital continuity planning as the USA - UNESCO's response to the collapse of the Cologne archive being considered as a 'one-off' - but we can still learn from the USA's tried and tested approach. The workshop gave a useful snapshot of what is already being done in this country by The National Archives, British Library and the work of the DPC, and it was obvious that strategy is vital to the successful implementation and support of digital resilience (and by implication Digital Archives). We are at the beginning of a very long road, a road full of great opportunities and collaborations if we are brave enough to grab hold of them.

Stephanie Nield
The Royal Household, Buckingham Palace

The House of Fraser Archive: an experiment with the 'series system'

Victoria Peters shared her experience of implementing Australian rules cataloguing with DSG members at the AGM held in London in June.

At the end of 2011, Glasgow University announced the launch of a brand new online catalogue for its House of Fraser Archive (http://housefraserarchive.ac.uk/). This was the culmination of a research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council called *Empowering the User: the Development of Flexible Archive Catalogues*.

The aim of the project was to create a finding aid that could cope with complex records of multiple provenance. Experience with other cataloguing projects had led us to the conclusion that the normal fonds based approach to cataloguing was not working. It just could not handle multiple provenance. We decided therefore to try out a more flexible approach by using the 'series' system of description pioneered in Australia. In this system, records are listed only at series level rather than being grouped together in fonds and subfonds. The result is a set of standalone series descriptions which can then be linked dynamically to any number of different contexts. In our project, we decided to link record series to brief histories of the organisation(s) or person(s) who created or used the records (i.e. authority records) as well as to descriptions of the function(s) that gave rise to the records. We also linked record series to other, related series.

The House of Fraser Archive was settled on as a test bed for the project because of its size and complexity. The company was founded in 1849 as a small shop in Glasgow and, since that time, some two hundred stores have joined or left the House of Fraser Group and it has acquired at least nine separate store chains. This makes it a particularly

Above: Screenshot of the home page of the House of Fraser online catalogue. Reproduced with permission of the University of Glasgow

Right: Interior of the House of Fraser department store, Glasgow; from the House of Fraser Archive. Reproduced with permission of the University of Glasgow.


challenging collection to list. The records have complex relationships with each other and multiple and changing provenances, all of which we had found impossible to represent adequately in a normal, hierarchical list.

To ensure we were not limited by the functionality of any existing cataloguing software, we encoded all our descriptions in XML, using Encoded Archival Description for the record series, Encoded Archival Context (then in beta) for the authority records and a DTD which we designed specifically for the function descriptions, and established links between them as appropriate. Glasgow University's Humanities Advanced Technology and Research Institute then created a bespoke PHP and XML powered website for the online delivery.

So what did we think of the 'series system'? There is no doubt that it proved remarkably effective. It coped with every cataloguing scenario that the complex House of Fraser Archive could throw at it and was sufficiently flexible to allow the representation of every provenance equally. We never had to make a cataloguing compromise. It would appear to be a much sounder and more objective basis for archival description than a conventional hierarchical arrangement.

However, there were drawbacks with the system, the main one being that there were certain pieces of information relating to the collection as a whole, such as archival history, immediate source of acquisition or appraisal, which needed

Right: Leaflet advertising Rodono splash proof silk hose, 1933; from the House of Fraser Archive. Reproduced with permission of the University of Glasgow.
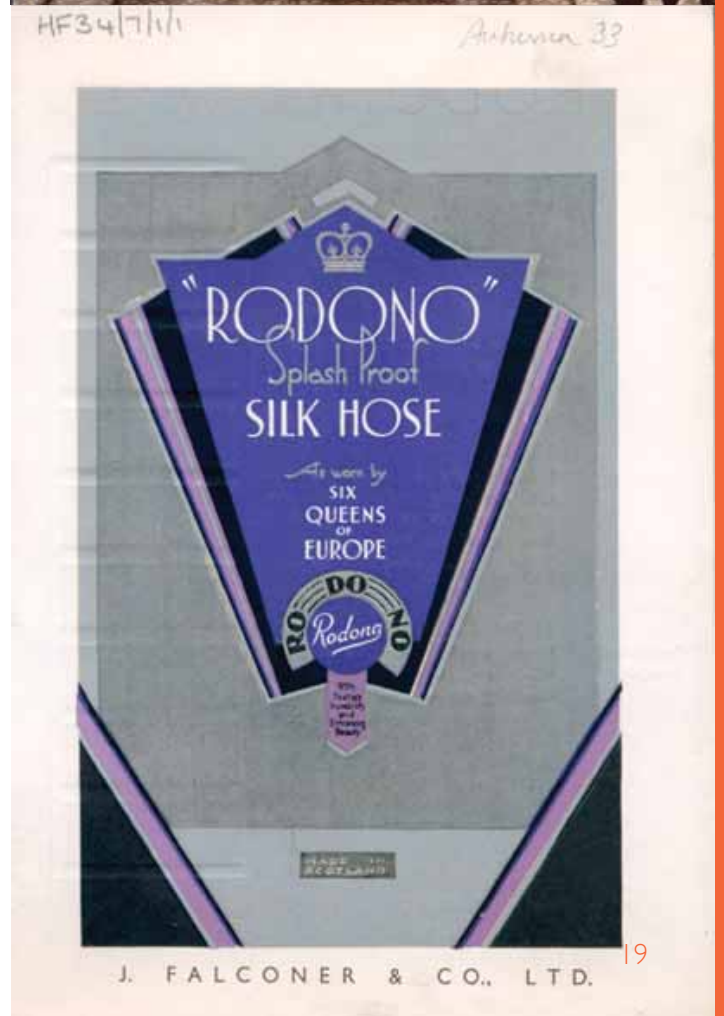
to be recorded to make the collection fully understandable. However, because there was no collection level description, there was no appropriate place to record them. For the 'series system' to be used effectively, some way of recording this sort of information has to be devised. The answer may be to add an extra layer or layers of context in the form of extra descriptive components, e.g. an archival history component or an appraisal component.

The true test of the catalogue, of course, is what users think. Although no formal user study of the finished site has been done, it is certainly being well used and the resulting usage of the collection is up too. Users do seem to be navigating it successfully. The fact that no adverse comments have been received (other than the perennial one of why all the records aren't digitised!) does lead to the conclusion, albeit a cautious one, that the site is a success.

We are keen to receive feedback on the site. Please do try it out and tell us what you think!

Victoria Peters

University Archivist, Strathclyde University
(Formerly Project Archivist, Glasgow University)

Born-digital archives @ Hull: an update

Simon Wilson reports on the AIMS Project: a two-year collaboration between the Universities of Hull, Virginia, Stanford and Yale funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In bringing the institutions together the AIMS Project (*An Inter-Institutional Model for Stewardship*) sought to develop and share experiences in collecting and managing born-digital archives - that is material created digitally in a range of file and media formats that we wish to preserve permanently. At Hull we received material from novelist Stephen Gallagher and from the Socialist Health Association to process during the project. Although the project funding ended in September 2011, the work hasn't stopped.

In January this year we published the White Paper (see http://www2.lib.virginia. edu/aims/whitepaper/) to highlight good practice and to share the four project partners' experiences in processing born-digital archives. We have received comments and feedback from colleagues in Cambridge and at MIT and it has already been used in teaching archives students.

Another important aspect was to disseminate our experiences and both Judy Burg (University Archivist) and I have spoken about the work to a number of groups and events in the last six months including a two day workshop at the National Library of Wales, the Diasporic Literary Archives Workshop in Reading and the UK Archives

> *"*
> The work of the AIMS project was recognised with the recent announcement that the project has won the Annual Innovation Awards.
> *"*

Discovery Forum in London. We continue to contribute to the AIMS blog (http://born-digital-archives.blogspot.co.uk/) and have placed links to talks, examples of documentation and other resources on the History Centre website (http://www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk).

The work of the AIMS project was recognised with the recent announcement that the project has won the Annual Innovation Awards, established by the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) in the USA to recognise and encourage innovation in the field of digital preservation stewardship.

We are continuing to work with colleagues managing Hydra, the University's digital repository, and will shortly be looking to develop the capability that will allow us to ingest an entire born-digital archive of over 10,000 files in one go. We continue to ask each depositor about born-digital material and have started to have similar conversions with colleagues in the university.

Although we have taken huge steps there are still many more steps to take before we will have a complete workflow, and a while before we are in a position to provide access to born-digital materials. We are keen to collaborate with others on this journey - please contact us (I can be emailed at s.wilson@hull.ac.uk).

Simon Wilson
Hull History Centre, Hull

Report on the continuing development of international standards

Bill Stockting gives an update on Encoded Archival Description and Encoded Archival Context (Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families).

Encoded Archival Description (EAD)

It has been a very busy year for the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) Technical Subcommittee on EAD (TS-EAD) which is in the midst of the revision of the current version, EAD 2002. At the SAA Annual Meeting in August 2012 the committee met and discussed the principles behind the revision work and the submissions received from the international call for comments last year. Working groups were also set up to discuss the submissions, which were presented in a lively session to the U.S. professional user community.

In the meantime the committee had been pursuing funding to convene a face-to-face meeting and contributions were forthcoming from the Delmas Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Netherlands National Archives. The committee, including representatives from France and the Netherlands as well as myself representing the UK, duly met for a hectic three days while enjoying the hospitality of the Bienecke Library at Yale University in early March.

The committee focussed on the working groups' reports on the submissions, discussed additional requirements, and identified topics for further investigation. Since then, sub-groups have been working to agree the nature and extent of revisions and colleagues in the SAA's Schema Development Team have begun to develop the revised schema.

After a further meeting at this year's SAA Annual Meeting and presentation of progress, it is planned to provide an alpha version of the schema for initial user feedback this autumn. Comments from this will be fed into the development of a more formal beta version with a draft tag library for release early in 2013.

All the documents mentioned above and more can be found at http://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-description-ead/encoded-archival-description-ead.

Encoded Archival Context (Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families) (EAC-CPF)
Meanwhile the SAA sibling subcommittee on EAC-CPF is working on consolidating the first version of the standard released in 2010. Committee working groups are working on improving the tag library, including providing more comprehensive examples, and the official website. It is hoped that the results from this work will be available soon. The subcommittee are also co-ordinating translations of the tag library: a French version has been released and Italian and German versions are in progress.

Of particular interest to the development of EAC-CPF is Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC: http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/) which has received funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a further two year project which now includes many international partners including the Archives Hub and the British Library for the UK.

....
Bill Stockting
co-chair TS-EAD; ex officio TS-EAC-CPF
....

Metamorphosis: Introducing the Section for Archives and Technology

Sarah Higgins explains the evolution and new remit of this ARA section.

The Section for Archives and Technology is not a new section of the Archives and Records Association. Rather it has developed through metamorphosis as the archive profession's interest and expertise in harnessing digital technology to ensure the authenticity, reliability, integrity and usability of the materials in our care has developed. The *Data Standards Group* has re-launched itself as the *Section for Archives and Technology* to better reflect the more holistic interests of the members. The new remit can be seen below.

Society of Archivists EAD/Data Exchange Special Interest Group
Data standards are a vital component of digital resource delivery. Their successful implementation can ensure the discovery of both the metadata describing a resource and born-digital and digitised resources. Initiatives in the 1990s established international standards to support the consistent structure of archival finding-aids and their semantic mark-up for search and discovery.

Members of the Society of Archivists, the forerunner to the Archives and Records Association, realised the importance of ISAD(G) (General International Standard Archival Description) and the XML DTD (eXtensible Markup Language Document Type Definition), establishing the *Society of Archivists EAD/Data Exchange Special Interest Group* as a focus for discussion and training. The use of these standards started to be embedded in UK practice, with a number of embryonic archival networks and cross repository projects realising their potential. These included The Archives Hub, A2A and a number of projects funded by the RSLP (Research Support Libraries

" The new remit considers digital security, digital forensics and born-digital materials, along with data exchange, digitisation and digital preservation. "

> ❝
> ## The Data Standards Group has re-launched itself as the Section for Archives and Technology.
> ❞

Programme). EAD training courses around the UK were quickly booked up with archivists eager to participate in retro-conversion of their finding-aids.

Data Standards Group

The focus of the *EAD/Data Exchange Special Interest Group* started to shift as technical expertise amongst archivists increased; the International Council on Archives (ICA) developed new standards; and, the application to archive management of metadata standards developed by other domains became apparent. Members were involved in the development of the ICA's suite of data exchange standards: ISAAR(CPF) (International Standard Archival Authority Record for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families), ICA-ISDIAH (International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings) and ISDF (International Standard for Describing Functions). Digitisation efforts had brought other metadata standards such as Dublin Core to the fore, along with standards for technical metadata for images. The group revisited its remit and its name.

The *Data Standards Group* (DSG) was not only concerned with interoperability, accessibility and usability of online finding-aids; but also considered the wider technical implementations of digitisation and digital preservation. The group continued to be involved in international standards development, delivered training in diverse applicable standards, held EAD workshops for archives students, and published the monthly *Guide to Standards* in *ARC*. Most crucially, the Group undertook the administration of the ARA's associate membership of the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC).

Training in digital preservation for archivists was becoming vital with born-digital records becoming the norm and digitised materials needing management for the long-term. In partnership with the DPC, the National Archives, the Planets Project Cymal and the National Archives of Scotland the group launched the Digital Preservation Roadshows. Nine roadshows, across the UK introduced the basics of digital preservation, playing to packed audiences. Meanwhile members enjoyed free

training courses through scholarships funded by the DPC and free attendance at their events.

The Section for Archives and Technology: the new remit

The Section for Archives and Technology continues to develop these activities, now embracing all implementations of technology to the curation of archives and records. The new remit considers digital security, digital forensics and born-digital materials, along with data exchange, digitisation and digital preservation. We welcome old and new members to our bi-annual meetings and to bring their ideas, concerns and energy to the Section. Details of our activities and how to contact committee members are on the Section's pages of the ARA website. The full remit is below.

The Section for Archives and Technology is concerned with building a community of practice and research around the intersection of archives, records and technology. To this end, we aim to provide a forum for discussion and support to help practitioners keep abreast of developments, and work towards best practice in the curation of digitised and born digital materials, and their discovery and use. Topics of interest to the Section include:

- Preservation, accessibility and usability of both born-digital and digitised material;

- the creation, extraction and authentication of data and metadata for the effective and reliable intellectual control of material;

- digitally held finding aids and enhanced electronic search for effective discovery;

- relevant data standards and protocols;

- digitisation initiatives for conservation and access;

- the security and architecture of online and offline information systems;

- forensic processing of digital objects and media.

Sarah Higgins
Chair, Section for Archives and Technology

Linked Data in Archives, Part 1: challenges and opportunities

JISC's Step change project has brought together King's College London Archives, ULCC, Axiell, Cumbria Archive Service, Historypin and the charity, 'We are what we do', with the aim of creating Linked Data architecture for the archive sector in the UK. Geoff Browell discusses why the challenges are worth overcoming.

We have been hearing a lot recently about Linked Data but what is it and why is it important? Linked Data is a term coined by the originator of the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee, and is a way of linking often abstract concepts between online data and making it available to be searched and connected in an automated way. Individual personal and corporate names, places, dates and subjects and their relationships can be precisely indentified, defined and linked in new ways.

At a practical level, this might mean that a term in a catalogue such as 'Churchill' is identified in a machine readable way as 'Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill' and not his son, Randolph Churchill, or one of several towns called Churchill in Canada. Such linking will make possible new tools such as subject-specific websites displaying content from different repositories, for example 'Wartime Prime Ministers'. The key point is that human beings must either define or verify machine-choices of terms, so Linked Data embeds the knowledge, expertise and judgment of individual archivists and specialists to make searching the internet both more 'semantic' and more intuitive.

Publishing companies, governments and the museum and library sectors have been experimenting with Linked Data for some time and now the archive community is catching up. The JISC-funded Step change project at King's College is one of several creating Linked Data archive datasets that can be cross-searched with other relevant datasets such as British Museum Collections or the British National Bibliography. Its rationale is that Linked Data tools should be easy to use and demonstrably enhance the experience of users. The release of the UK Archival Thesaurus as Linked Data will enable speedier and more accurate indexing by users of CALM cataloguing software. The AIM25 discovery website will display enriched data, and enhancement of the Historypin map website will potentially widen access to archive collections by displaying archive catalogue information alongside visual content pinned up by users.

There are challenges ahead, not least around ownership of data, re-use and licensing. Archivists need to navigate around often obscure jargon, learn new skills and take time to mark up both new and existing catalogues. Mixing data on websites also risks confusing users and overloading them with too much information. Perhaps the most pressing challenge, however, is that Linked Data analysis exposes poor quality cataloguing and indexing - for example historical and modern place names that resolve to different map co-ordinates or discrepancies between personal or corporate names.

On the plus side, Linked Data has the potential to build intelligent connections between data such as catalogues or maps held by different archives, heritage organisations, research teams and even private individuals. Linked Data can help standardise
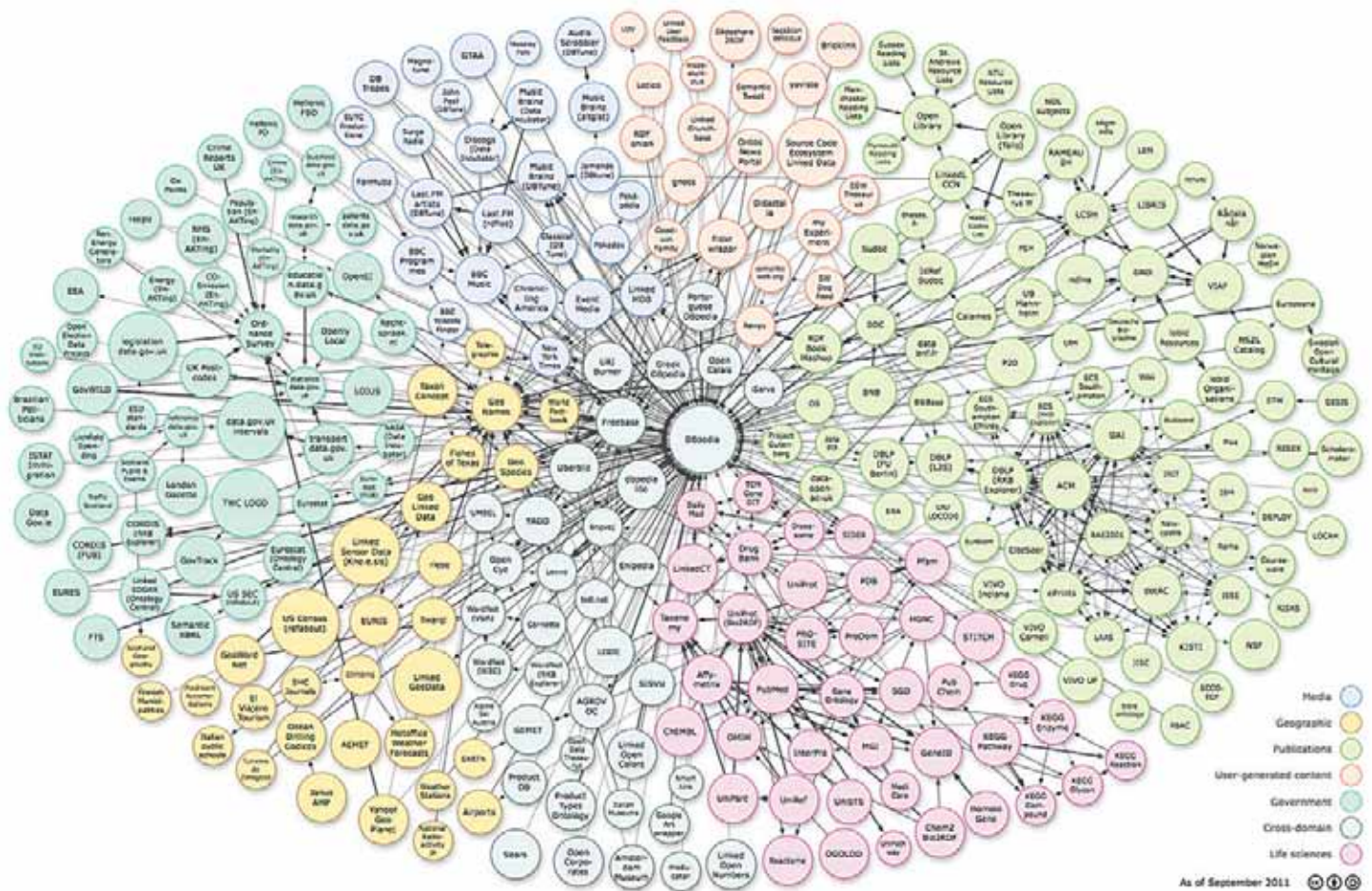
The inevitable and expanding Linking Open Data cloud diagram, by Richard Cyganiak and Anja Jentzsch, http://lod-cloud.net/

> 66
> Linked Data tools should be easy to use and demonstrably enhance the experience of users.
> 99

name authority data such as the National Register of Archives. The Archives Hub is currently working on an important project in this area called 'Linking Lives'. Places can be identified more precisely and geo-located to maps, facilitating the work of historical mapping projects such as Vision of Britain. Legacy research data - historical or statistical - can be revisited and mixed together to stimulate new lines of enquiry. Crowd sourced metadata created by volunteers can be combined, and the expertise of volunteers from sometimes divergent disciplines merged, to create rich and exotic combinations of Linked Data that will encourage innovative re-use of

collections. Linked Data also affords the possibility of improving efficiency within an organisation - for example by cross-searching library records and archive descriptions held on different IT systems.

For more information on Step change, visit http://openmetadatapathway.blogspot.co.uk/

Geoff Browell
King's College London

Linked Data in Archives, Part 2: Development of Calm 9.3, towards a simple linked data indexing tool

Robert Baxter explores the first steps taken to integrate linked data into cataloguing software.

One of the key components of our Step change project is the development of Axiell's software products Calm and CalmView to support some Linked Data (LD) functionality. Both applications are widely used within the UK archival community. The current public release of Calm is version 9.2, and I have been supplied with a release of 9.3 to use with our catalogue data in a test environment here in Cumbria.

Within the time and resource confines of the Step change project, we are looking to develop the following tools that will:

1. Allow Calm users to interrogate LD services, return results and insert selected Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) into Calm records;

2. allow these links to be displayed in the CalmView web front end to the Calm application;

3. allow CalmView to expose data from the Calm application in Resource Description Framework (RDF) so that it in turn can be interrogated by other services.

In this article I will be discussing the development of point 1 (points 2 and 3 will emerge a little later in the project).

There are two basic aspects to the LD functionality in Calm v.9.3:

● An administration facility to allow configuration/testing of current and new linked data services;

● cataloguer's facility to link URIs into Calm records.

Let's look at the administration part first:

From the main administration menu, we go to a LD submenu and can see the three default LD services which have been configured. These are AIM25, British Library British National Bibliography (BNB) and Wikipedia (Dbpedia). At this point we can add, remove, edit or test and verify these services.

At this point we can also select the test function and send some text to search the service and see what is returned. Here we have searched the AIM25 service with the text 'Churchill' and can see some XML returned (see figure 1).

If the service is correctly configured, this will be transformed by the XSLT for each service to Calm XML. You can also use the Admin menu to determine which databases in Calm can be potentially linked to that service - you are not restricted to your catalogue database for example.

So that's the admin part. What about linking a Calm catalogue record to a URL from one of these services? Well in catalogue menu, you select the Authorities menu in the left, and you will now see a Linked Data button. You select the service to which you wish to link, then the fields in the Calm record you wish the service to search (or you can add your own freetext to search).

Here for instance is a catalogue record with URIs inserted to AIM25 and to Dbpedia (see figure 2).

As things stand, three default services were configured because they were readily accessible and of some possible use to archivists and archive users. Configuring new services could be added in Calm upgrades or through

sharing technical expertise with other Calm users. But the key resources for archivists are as LD services still in development or not readily accessible (I'm thinking of things like National Register of Archives, UKAT, historic place names, Manorial Documents Register, English historic place names etc). And there are major issues, of course, relating to person/corporate name authorities or geo name authorities which are essential areas for development.

I would say this development is very much in early days yet. Much remains to be done in making the application search other LD resources, also in rendering this data in a usable, intuitive way for researchers, and in making Calm data consumable by other LD services. However, we perhaps have taken the first steps along the Linked Data way.

See the full project blog and more screenshots at http://openmetadatapathway.blogspot.co.uk/
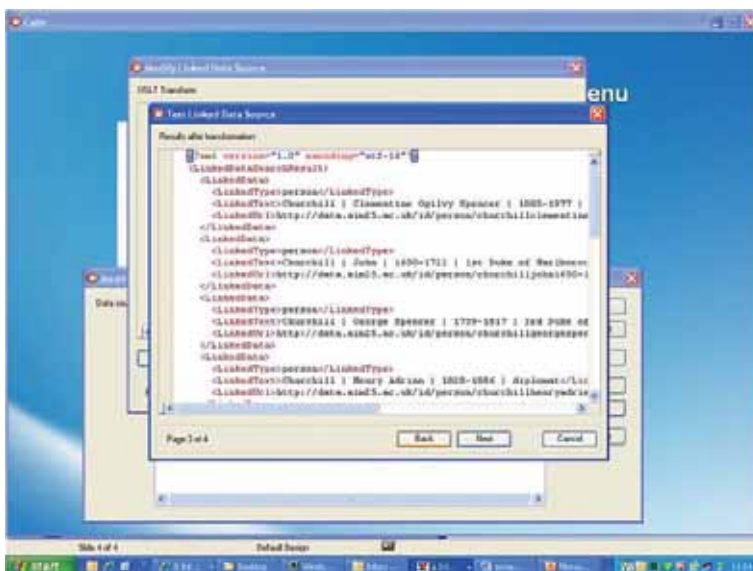
Robert Baxter
Cumbria Archive Service

Figure 1, ©Axiell. Reproduced courtesy of Axiell and Cumbria Archive Service
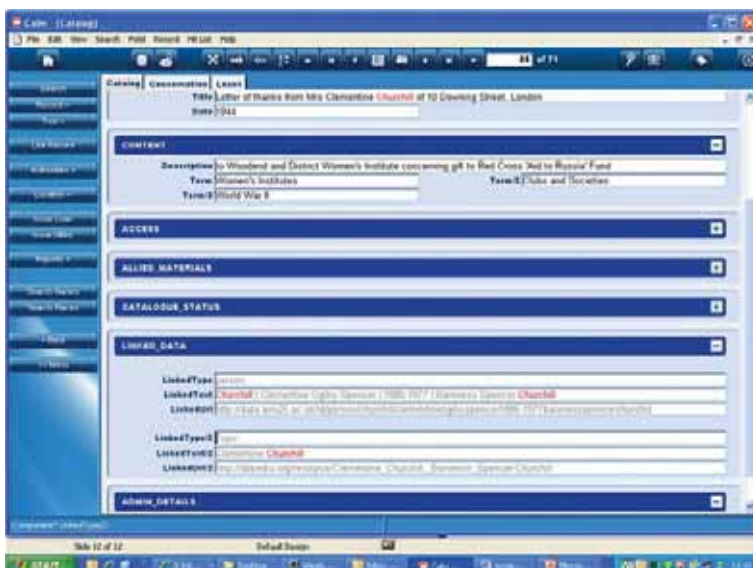
Figure 2, ©Axiell. Reproduced courtesy of Axiell and Cumbria Archive Service.

ARC magazine is a great read - but are you also reading

ARA TODAY?

ARA TODAY is your fortnightly e-newsletter. If you haven't been reading it, you may not know about the latest training courses, the availability of bursaries, special member discounts, what the latest sector research is telling us.... Every issue also has up-to-the-minute news from the ARA's Chief Executive.

If you're not receiving ARA TODAY in your inbox, you may need to add ARAToday@news-archives.org.uk to your address book to make sure your newsletter is not being rejected – or talk to your local technical colleagues.

Unlock the true potential of your collections

Adlib Archive is the professional solution for the management of archival collections Adlib Archive supports multi-level archival descriptions with on-screen hierarchical display, and includes comprehensive indexing capability to build a solid base for successful data retrieval. Multimedia and document files link easily to catalogue records, meaning Adlib Archive is equally at home in digital archives.

Adlib Archive

Comprehensive Conservation module Easy printing Management Information Research/Use module Retention schedules Accessions Secure ISAD(G) ISAAR(CPF) EAD Can be integrated with Adlib Library and/or Adlib Museum Secure Choice of MS-SQL Server Oracle Adlib DBMS Flexible Finding aids Multiple search options Extensive thesaurus management Scalable API interface Open System Suitable for all archive types

adlib
The easy way to knowledge

Adlib Information Systems
0845 658 9482
sales@uk.adlibsoft.com
www.adlibsoft.com

A modern approach to preserving our heritage

A British icon and world-renowned establishment, The Savoy is steeped in history and recognised for its unique stylistic character. The task of relocating the Savoy's archives, records and artefacts in preparation for its £220 million restoration project, began at the end of 2007 when the entire archives were moved off-site to a temporary storage facility.

It wasn't until March 2012 that work began creating the Savoy's new archives. After careful consideration, Bruynzeel's Compactus® mobile shelving system was selected as it offered the most effective use of the available space at the most competitive price. Specific requirements included open shelving and racking for easy access, as well as diverse shelving sizes to accommodate the various shapes of items in the archive. Working around ducts and allowing clearance for gas pipes, Bruynzeel also installed new flooring to accommodate the new manually operated mobile shelving solution, in just five weeks.

The result has transformed the way that Archivist Susan Scott accesses and manages The Savoy's precious and irreplaceable records and artefacts.

"I can now easily locate and access items for display or research purposes. The system is also really light to operate and I can quickly re-configure shelving to fit new items. Cataloguing is faster and more efficient and I've now got space to accommodate new materials as we accumulate them."

For more information on Bruynzeel's mobile storage solutions please visit:
www.bruynzeel.co.uk or call 0800 220 989

The Burial Record of William Shakespeare in the parish register (DR243/1) a record of the baptisms, marriages and burials performed at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, between 1558-1776. Image provided by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, © The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.
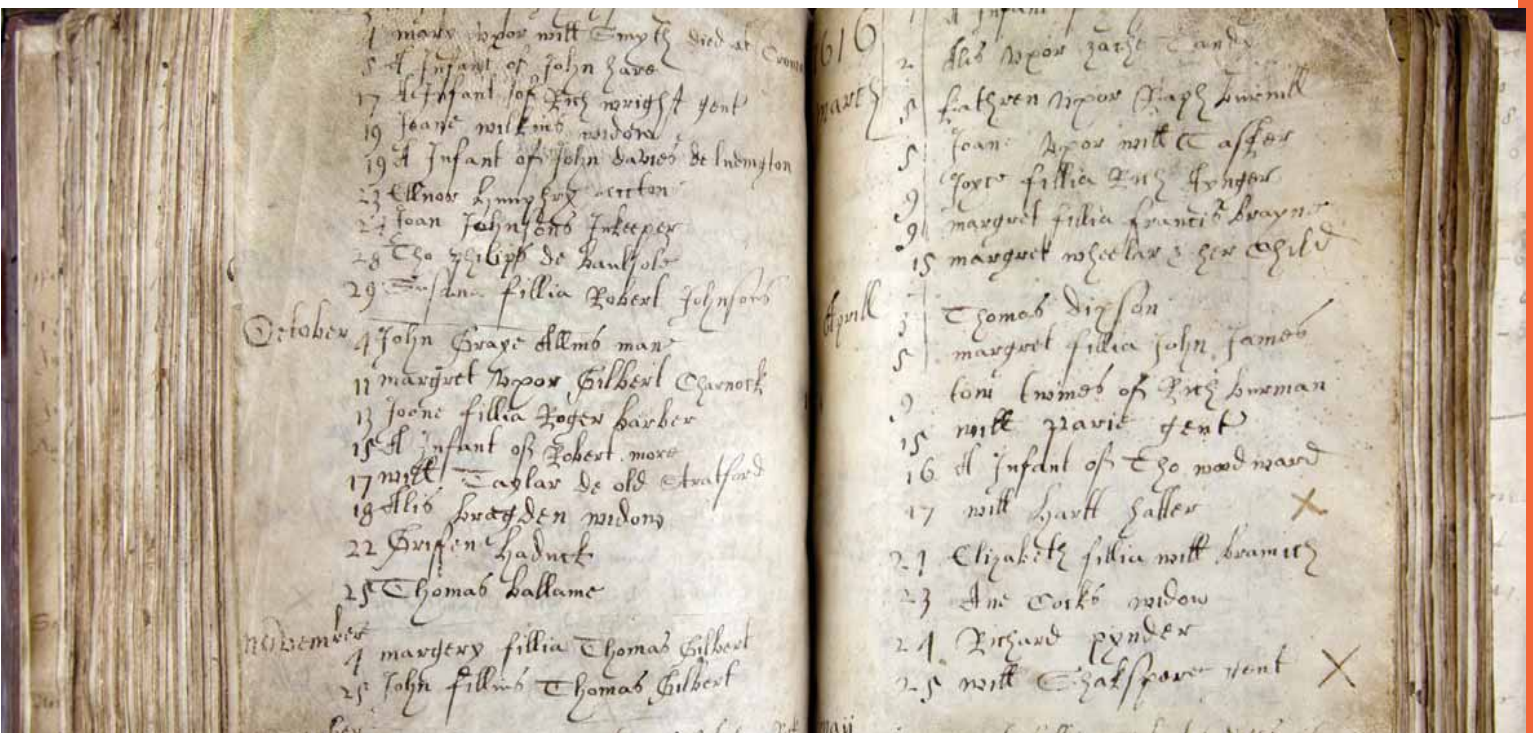
The 'Eye Shakespeare' App

Robyn Greenwood describes how new technology is being used to explore the collections of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

In May 2011 the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust began a partnership with Coventry University, Danwood, Hewlett-Packard and the Technology Strategy Board to develop an innovative outdoor Smartphone application (app) that offers visitors a new way of seeing Stratford-upon-Avon and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's properties and collections.

The app, now appropriately named 'Eye Shakespeare', brings together objects from the Trust's Library, Archive and Museum collections in a digital cross-domain interpretation of Shakespeare's hometown. Over two-hundred 'hidden treasures' from all areas of the Trust (including books, photographs, hand-written documents and 3D objects) combine with four famous 'virtual' tour guides (William Shakespeare, David Garrick, Marie Corelli and a special children's tour lead by Sammy the Snail) to offer four unique perspectives on thirteen key sites in Stratford, including Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Visitors can now see and hear over five centuries of local history through the eyes of Shakespeare, Garrick and Corelli and encounter at each site some of the most intriguing items found in the SBT collections.

Eye Shakespeare has forced the SBT's most fragile objects out of the archives and has re-contextualised them through a light-hearted first-person narrative that aims to connect the objects with both a past and present context. At Holy Trinity Church, for example, William Shakespeare introduces the first Stratford-

> " The app develops a cross-domain relationship with the larger Stratford community. "

> "
> Users are encouraged to make connections between the digitised objects by re-contextualising them in modern day debates.
> "

upon-Avon parish register, a volume which includes his baptism and burial entries. He explains what it may have meant to him as a child growing up during the reformation, as his birth is recorded in Latin while his burial is in English. The parish register is seen in its original context and in connection with other objects at the site, such as a gold signet ring bearing the initials 'WS', which was found on church grounds and is believed to have belonged to Shakespeare and a Shakespeare memorial erected in the church shortly after Shakespeare's death. In this way, the app places the register in the historical context of the church and encourages users to make connections between the digitised objects by re-contextualising them in modern day debates around Shakespeare's identity.

The app not only creates a cross-domain association with the Trust's Library, Archive and Museum collections but also develops a cross-domain relationship with the larger Stratford community. Experts in the museum field, local teachers and the vicar of Holy Trinity Church come together to offer their own interpretations of items in the SBT collections and Stratford's historic buildings.

Eye Shakespeare also pushes the boundaries of the latest mobile phone technology as one of the most anticipated functions of the app (available in future versions) will be its use of augmented reality to visualize and interact with Shakespeare's last home, New Place. Visitors will be able to point their phone at the ruined site and see a recreation of the building Shakespeare once knew on their screen. Users will be able to explore the building close-up and enter inside the model to explore its interior.

Eye Shakespeare is free to download and is currently available for iPhone and iPad. Upgrades will continue on this ongoing project as the Trust and its partners make improvements.

Robyn Greenwood
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

A gold signet ring found near Holy Trinity Church which possibly belonged to William Shakespeare, 1.6 x 1.9cm
Image provided by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, © The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Still Saving the Bits!

William Kilbride reflects on the work of the Digital Preservation Coalition.

2012 is the Tenth Anniversary of the Digital Preservation Coalition. Ten years is a long time for a small organisation and it's even more remarkable for a group which has such a precise goal. Many readers will have heard my slightly flippant comment that, because digital preservation is a tractable problem, the real measure of success for the DPC is how quickly it makes itself redundant. So why is the DPC still here 10 years later, and what does this tell us about the nature of the problem?

At a fundamental level, the problem itself keeps changing. The challenge of digital preservation is expanding on three axes - the sheer volumes of information which society produces, consumes and preserves continues to grow; the complexity of the information we use has a habit of intensifying with ever greater and ever more distributed interdependencies; and the importance which we place on these complex and proliferating information resources increases year on year. So the mission of the Coalition has continued to be refreshed through the last decade.

> "
> The mission of the Coalition has continued to be refreshed through the last decade.
> "

More interestingly and less well documented, is the way that the issues of preservation have been propagated. Archives have been talking about the issue of digital preservation for a long time and can point to some really good practice. There are still undoubted challenges but one doesn't have to work hard to find the consensus that action is necessary and that shared action is both more effective and more efficient. That's not true in every sector and it's noticeable how the membership of the DPC has to some extent mapped the growth of digital preservation concerns in new territories.

Save the Bits. Image courtesy of DPC.

DPC folders. Image courtesy of DPC.

A year or two ago, the UK's major heritage agencies or their representatives joined within a few months of each other; this year has seen an increase in university libraries, presumably responding in turn to changes in research council policy; and it's also seen a marked upturn in the number of museums enquiring about membership or sending representatives to our events. The growth is also because the DPC is more vigorous now than ever, with a stronger emphasis on its goals of advocacy, workforce development, knowledge exchange, assurance and partnership.

The ARA is an associate member of the DPC, so the ARA is entitled to send a representative to each of our briefing days. One place among so many members means that competition can be intense, as it is for the scholarships we offer through the Leadership Programme. A number of major archives are members in their own right, guaranteeing them a place at each event. In any case, there's much more to the membership than just attendance at events, as the working parties and planning activities make clear. We'll be entering our eleventh year with as full a programme as we've had yet: an indicative programme is given below. Perhaps we'll see you soon!

William Kilbride
Digital Preservation Coalition

| DPC Events 2012-2013	Type of event or activity	Date
Preservation Metadata: PREMIS and METS	Members-only briefing day	Oct/ Nov 2012
What's the problem with File Formats?	Members-only briefing day	December 2012
Digital Preservation Awards 2012 and AGM	Invitational	December 2012
SPRUCE Digital Preservation 'Mash-up' (York)	3-day JISC-sponsored hack-a-thon	January 2013
Digital Preservation: what I wish I knew before I started	Student conference	January 2013
Preserving Computer-Aided Design	Members-only briefing day	February 2013
Talking techie: writing and understanding requirements in digital preservation	Members-only briefing day	March 2013
SPRUCE Digital Preservation 'Mash-up' (TBC)	3-day JISC-sponsored hack-a-thon	April/May 2013
DPC Planning Day	Members-only planning event	April/May 2013
Creating a Digital Preservation Plan	Members-only briefing day	April 2013
Director's Group	Full members networking day	June 2013
Virtualization and preservation: new directions	Members-only briefing day	June / July 2013
Certification and Audit of preservation: standards and good practice	Members-only briefing day	TBC
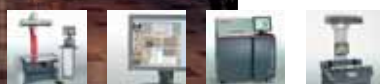
Playing CoPs and Robbers (and transforming research)

David Hopes highlights the participation of postgraduate students in an AHRC funded project.

Although the game of cops and robbers might well evoke memories of childhood and a battle between good and evil, in many respects it seemed the perfect name for a project to learn more about how Web 2.0 technologies are changing the landscape for research using museum, library and archive collections. Over the past six months I have been a research assistant on the *Digital CoPs and Robbers: Communities of Practice and the Transformation of Research* project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The project aims to find out what difference digital technologies make to the research process by testing two 'transformations': the digitisation of artefacts and the interaction of communities of practice. These technical and social transformations were based around the collections based in Stratford-upon-Avon and owned by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT) and the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC).

The phrase 'cops and robbers' contains the acronym for communities of practice (CoP), groups of practitioners such as archivists 'informally bound by what they do together'1, and the game itself implies that accessing and using primary material in research might involve issues such as ownership, competition, risk, rights and authority. These issues - and many others - surfaced repeatedly over

the course of organised visits by communities of practice (curators, archivists, librarians, academics, actors, hackers and 'digital creatives') to the RSC museum store, and during profiling interviews and workshops which aimed to chart the professional similarities and differences of those involved in caring for and using research collections. The involvement of so many different practitioners in what might loosely be termed the 'digital supply chain' came under the microscope during the project and every event in the project has been recorded and transcribed for analysis.

Key to the whole project was the participation of real researchers made up of postgraduate students from The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, who were given a research question

> ❝
> ## The role of various gatekeepers in the research process was challenged.
> ❞

Costume for Prospero as worn by Derek Jacobi in the Tempest, Royal Shakespeare Company, 1982. Photograph by Graham Norrie for the University of Birmingham, 2012.

Digital CoPs and Robbers Workshop 2, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, April 2012. Photograph by Robyn Greenwood, SBT 2012.

and asked to select costumes and props from the RSC museum store. These items were then digitised and sent to practitioners for their reaction during two structured workshops. Students were also asked to reflect on the process of digitisation and how the representation of collections online (specifically in a virtual learning environment) affected their perception and use of the material. This has generated almost 200,000 words which reveal a number of insights, patterns and themes, identified and explored in a scoping report, available from late August 2012 on the project blog http://digitalcopsandrobbers.wordpress.com/.

Calling All Colleagues!

ARC is always seeking articles reflecting the issues that matter to you most. We would love to publish pieces that reveal the sector's opinion and showcase successful best practice.

If you would like to send something for inclusion in the magazine, or write and let us know what you'd like to read about, please send articles to arceditors@archives.org.uk. Guidelines for articles for *ARC* can be found on the Association's website: www.archives.org.uk.

Although it is difficult to generalise from such a small and short-lived project, professional traits and the tensions these create when different communities of practice interact appear to make a big difference in determining the research potential of collections. So too does the technology itself and the nature of the tool one uses in carrying out research, and the ingrained effect of past use. It seems that the process, as well as the product, of research has been equally affected by digital technologies, as differences between user and producer, reader and researcher blur. The role of various gatekeepers in the research process was challenged and this may be because of the opportunities and expectations surrounding Web 2.0 technologies. Curiously, in the context of the use of data and tools, the words 'playing' and 'toying' were used again and again by different communities of practice, connecting with the title of the project and signalling perhaps a deeper association between gaming, creativity and the future of research in a digital age.

David Hopes
Research Fellow (The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, and Shakespeare Birthplace Trust)

[1] Wenger, E., Communities of Practice: Learning as a Social System, in the "Systems Thinker," Volume 9, issue 5, June/July 1998.
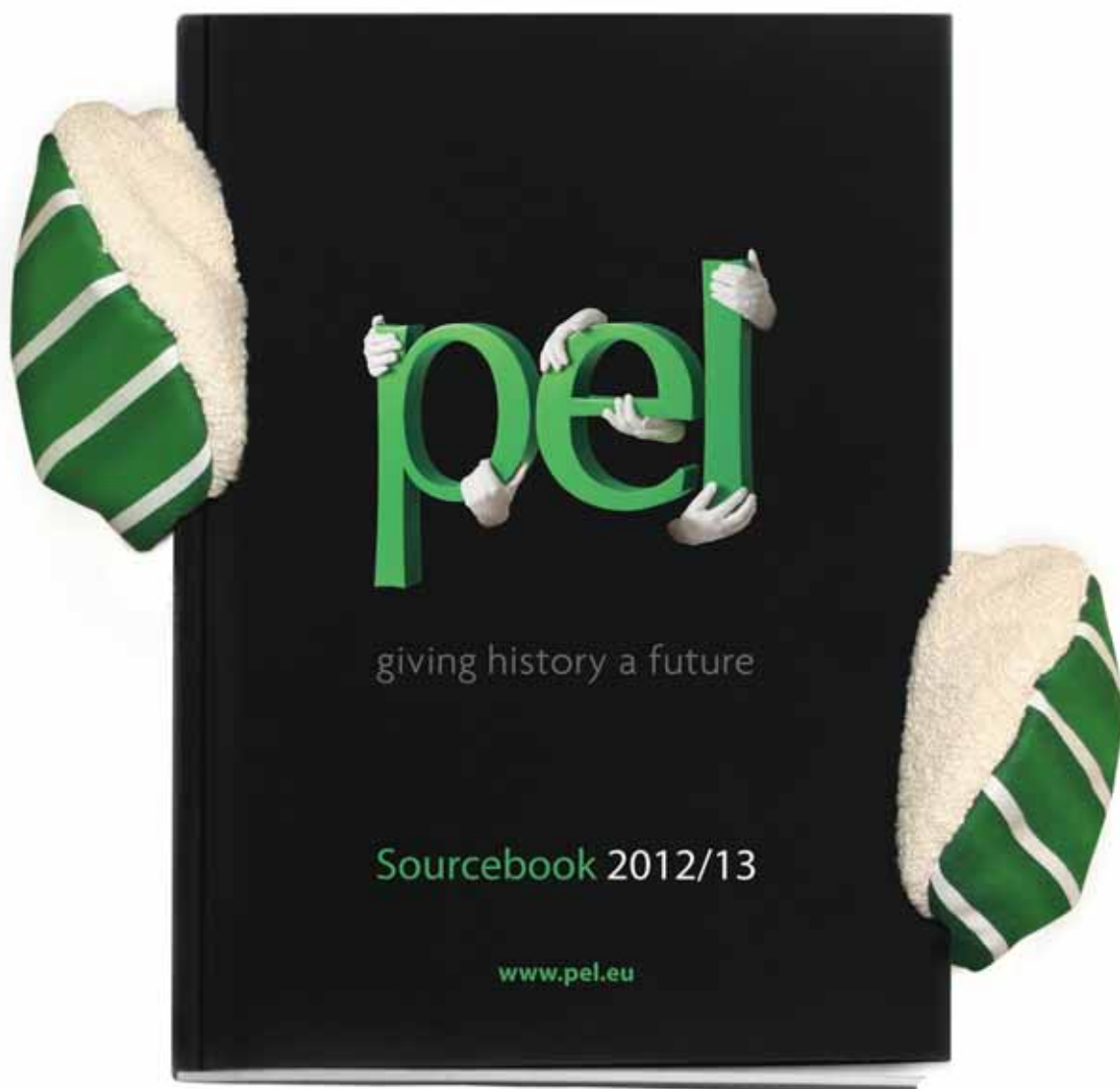
Hot off the press

We've just taken delivery of the new PEL 2012/13 Sourcebook. Its 210 pages contain details and prices of our entire range, including a wide selection of new products, from Masterpak Boxes to our unique Just-In-Case case. We continue to offer Europe's largest choice of conservation and archival supplies, holding impressive stock levels to ensure prompt delivery.

To get your hands on a copy, call us or complete the online form.

For the full contents list and more information
visit **www.pel.eu**

pel
giving history a future

It's what's on the outside that counts…

Because without the qualities offered by Conservation By Design's comprehensive range of products and high specification solutions, what's on the inside would be compromised.

It's for this reason conservators, curators and archivists across the world trust CXD products to help them preserve treasures for future generations to enjoy.

To discover how CXD can help you safeguard or showcase your collection, visit **www.cxdltd.com/vase**

Porcelain vase, Chelsea-Derby factory, c.1775
By kind permission of the Trustees of
Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, Bedford, England

CONSERVATION BY DESIGN LIMITED
A Larson-Juhl Company

12/01PV

BOXES AND
STORAGE PRODUCTS

PAPERS, BOARDS
AND MATERIALS

CONSERVATION
EQUIPMENT

STORAGE AND
WORKSHOP FURNITURE

MUSEUM
SHOWCASES