



United Kingdom

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Jewish Museum, London
Figurine of Jewish pedlar, Royal Crown Derby, c. 1760
Jewish pedlars were a common sight in Georgian England

Digitisation policies and emerging initiatives

Liaison continues on a regular basis with a wide range of organisations in the cultural and education sectors through the Forum for Network Co-ordination, and also through involvement in other initiatives, such as the Broadband Stakeholder Group and the Common Information Environment. In addition, Resource is leading the development of other initiatives.

<http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/future/network.asp>

Broadband Stakeholder Group

Resource has contributed to the development of reports produced on topics such as Education and Digital Rights Management. Resource has now been invited by the Department for Trade and Industry to lead on considering two of the recommendations of the report on Digital Rights Management:

- The UK content industries and public sector beneficiaries of copyright exceptions (such as libraries and education) should work together to create frameworks for use of content, employing DRM systems to enforce the agreed scope and terms of use;
 - the Government should implement a number of pilot public service broadband offerings, deploying DRM applications and e-payment systems.
- <http://www.broadbanduk.org>

Common Information Environment

The number of key public bodies have reached a partnership agreement to work towards a single online information environment for delivering electronic resources to everyone in the UK. These include Resource, British Library, National Archives, Joint

Information Systems Committee (JISC), the E-science "Grid" and the National Electronic Library for Health. Together two demonstrators have been developed, on the topics of "Health" and "Places", bringing together a wide variety of resources from across the public sector, and beyond.

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=wg_cie_home

Archives Task Force

DCMS has asked Resource to undertake a thorough review of the archive domain to recommend ways of maximising archives' contribution to the wider policy agenda, including the online provision of information, and closer links with formal education and learning and with community groups. The aim of the Archives Task Force is to make archives better used, better looked after and better understood. The Archives Task Force is due to report its recommendations early in Spring 2004. Work is also continuing on developing proposals to link archival finding aids, building on projects such as Access2Archives and Moving Here (migration experiences of the last 200 years).

<http://www.resource.gov.uk/action/taskforce/taskforce.asp>

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk>

Programmes and projects

Culture Online

Culture Online, which has a £13m (c. € 20m) budget to commission between 20 and 30 projects in 2003-2004, aims to enliven the school curriculum and adult learning and delight new audiences with arts, culture and technology. Working in England with a variety of cultural organisations, it will forge new connections

between new digital technology and cultural resources, to create a powerful learning asset, offering children and adults new cultural experiences and insights into our heritage. Arts Minister Estelle Morris set out details of the first seven projects to be commissioned under the initiative developed by DCMS and they include:

The Dark

Allowing thousands of people to experience an innovative three-dimensional soundscape in pitch darkness, complemented by a Website navigated only by sound.

Every Object Tells a Story

Engaging audiences with the meanings behind museum and personal objects and giving users the opportunity to add their story and their own object to a growing national online collection.

WebPlay

An innovative on-line initiative for primary school children from inner city and rural schools, working together over the Internet to direct a play which they've written themselves about each others' lives.

Scoop

An opportunity to create a multimedia newspaper covering important events in the past, using the best paper and film archives.

<http://www.cultureonline.gov.uk>

Culturenet Cymru

Culturenet Cymru is a new body that is working to promote Welsh heritage and culture online through a range of exciting and innovative new projects and by supporting the work of other bodies within

Wales in areas that include the arts, heritage, sport, tourism and education.

<http://www.culturenetcymru.com>

JISC Digitisation Programme

The Joint Information Systems Committee Digitisation Programme is funded with a £10m (c. € 15m) grant from the Comprehensive Spending Review in recognition that a series of large-scale digitisation projects would bring significant benefits to the UK Further and Higher Education community. The materials for digitisation were selected on the basis that they were of broad disciplinary interest, were of a scale that would not otherwise be possible, were fully compatible with the common information environment and met rigorous quality-assurance standards. The following digitisation proposals were identified and are at various stages of negotiation:

British Library Newspapers 1800-1900

British Library Sound Archive 20th century

British Official Publications 18th-20th century

British University Film and Video Council / ITN and Pathe

History Data Service Census Data 1801-1937

Wellcome Trust UK/US Medical Journals

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_digitisation

Curriculum Online Cultural Sector Pilots

Curriculum Online is an online portal or catalogue of digital learning resources linked to the National Curriculum for England. The programme is led by the Department for Education and Skills ICT in Schools Division, and includes funding to enable teachers to purchase content made available through the portal. The involvement of the cultural sector is seen by the DfES as an important factor in making the Curriculum

Jewish Museum, London
Inscribed glass bottle for wine or oil for Sabbath blessing
Etched with Hebrew and Arabic inscriptions
Syrian or Egyptian, 18th-19th century





Online programme a success. Specifically the cultural sector has the ability to:

- provide high quality materials that are free at point of use for schools;
- enrich the teaching of the curriculum with a depth of topics and unique resources that simply are not available from commercial providers;
- cover subject areas where the offering from commercial providers is limited by market economics, particularly areas such as the Performing Arts, Music, RE and Citizenship.

The pilot programme has been conducted between June and November of 2003 by the DfES working with Resource and with the support of DCMS. The four pilot organisations were chosen to represent a broad cross section of the cultural industry in terms of scale, funding, content and experience of creating schools resources. These were Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Shrewsbury Museums Service, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the British Museum.
<http://www.curriculumonline.gov.uk>

NOF-digitise Programme

The £50m (c. € 80m) NOF-digitise Programme is nearing completion, with many digitisation projects now having launched their Websites. All projects can be located through the <http://www.enrichuk.net> Website, with the following projects having launched recently:

England

Digital Shikshapatri

<http://www.shikshapatri.org.uk/>

Scotland

Resources for Learning in Scotland

<http://www.rls.org.uk>

Wales

Gathering the Jewels

<http://www.gtj.org.uk/gtj/>

Northern Ireland

Act of Union

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

Designation Challenge Fund

The Resource Designation Scheme recognises collections of national significance held in non-national museums, and the Challenge Fund supports museums in caring for those collections. Many of the projects that received grants as part of the £5.6m (c. € 8m) awarded to museums in July 2002 involve the use of ICT, and are due for completion in March 2004. A new round of £4 million of funding will be allocated towards the cost of projects starting in March 2004.

<http://www.resource.gov.uk/action/designation/00design.asp>

Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary recording scheme for archaeological objects found by members of the public, many by metal detector users, but also by people whilst out walking or gardening. The Scheme, managed by Resource, has now implemented a complete, Web-based data and image management system and it uniquely allows users, such as the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers as well as members of the public, to enter data directly through their Web browsers. Its integrated Workflow and Data Quarantine facility ensures that all data is accurately validated by specialists before it is published on the Internet.

<http://www.finds.org.uk>

Pastscape

English Heritage has launched an online resource developed at the National Monuments Record Centre, which provides an easy-to-use way to find and explore information about many of England's ancient and historical sites, buildings and monuments.
<http://www.pastscape.org>

Regulatory and legal issues

Implementation of EU Copyright Directive

Regulations detailing the largely technical changes necessary to bring the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 into conformity with the EU Copyright Directive came into force on 31 October 2003. The Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002 (Commencement) Order 2003 was published on 3 October 2003 and introduces two new exceptions to copyright and is fully consistent with the Copyright Directive.
http://www.patent.gov.uk/copy/notices/2003/copy_direct3.htm

Legal Deposit

The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 was enacted on 31 October. It extends previous legal deposit legislation to enshrine the principle that electronic or e-publications and other non-print materials will be deposited in the future in copyright libraries. It ensures that these publications can be saved as part of the published archive – and become an important resource for future generations of researchers and scholars. The materials covered include:

- publications accessed over the Internet, e.g. electronic journals;
- Websites: a limited and well-defined range of sites,

judged to be research-level, will be regularly harvested for addition to the national archive;

- publications on non-paper media, such as microfiche, CD-ROM or DVD.
<http://www.bl.uk/news/webcase.html>

Cultural Property

The Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act was given Royal Assent on 30th October 2003 and creates an offence if anyone deals dishonestly in unlawfully removing cultural objects from anywhere in the world. http://www.culture.gov.uk/cultural_property/illegal_trade.htm

Cooperation developments

European and international cooperation developments

Resource is involved as a partner in two projects under negotiation in the EU FP6 Programme, and is also represented as a National Expert on the EMII-DCF Project. Resource participated in a networking meeting held in Rome to help look how a wide range of projects may best collaborate. The Cultural Content Forum has recently announced the availability of the second phase on a study of Users and their needs. In addition, work is proceeding on the organisation of the next meeting of the Forum, due to be held in Banff, Canada 26-28 February 2004. The Forum is jointly co-ordinated by CIMI, UKOLN and Resource, and the Banff meeting is being organised by Canadian Heritage.
<http://www.culturalcontentforum.org>



Jewish Museum, London
 Miniature Torah Scrolls in silver cases
 by Frederick Kandler, 1766-1767
 Made for the Baal Shem of London, kabbalist Samuel Falk)

Emerging issues

Long-term preservation of digital memory

Digital Curation Centre

In conjunction with the UK Research Council's e-Science Core Programme, the JISC has invited bids to establish a national Digital Curation Centre (DCC), which will lead research into key areas for digital curation and the development of support services for maintaining digital data for the higher education sector. The Centre will have a significant national and international role, both within Europe and as a bridge between American and European thought, and is expected to align with international approaches and be at the leading edge of developments.

Digital Preservation Advocacy

The DPC recently provided a register of and links to media coverage it has obtained via its Advocacy Campaign, with the view that such links may prove valuable to others involved in local advocacy work. The register includes DPC press coverage to June 2003 from national, international and specialist press, television and radio broadcasts and coverage on the Internet.

Digital Preservation Award

The DPC also recently announced its sponsorship of a new award as part of the Pilgrim Trust Conservation Awards program. Worth £5000, the Digital Preservation Award will recognise leadership and achievement in the developing field of digital preservation, and is aimed at projects that focus on "born digital" resources. Submissions for the Award closed in September, and the shortlist of five candidates is now available.

Web-Archiving

The National Archives of the United Kingdom announced an initiative to collect and preserve 50 government Websites. Sites are being collected as weekly or 6-monthly snapshots, using a specially-modified version of the Internet Archive's Web crawler. In November, the UK Web Archiving Consortium of six members (British Library, National Archives, National Library of Wales, JISC, National Library of Scotland and Wellcome Trust) advertised an OJEC Tender to enable the capture of Web sites and the provision of public access.

National Assessment of Need Survey

A survey has been conducted of the 26 DPC members (including the BBC), and legal deposit libraries. The survey is part of a national assessment of need being carried out by the DPC and external funding is being sought to extend the survey in 2004 beyond the DPC membership, particularly to smaller regional organisations.

<http://www.dpconline.org> for information about all Digital Preservation activities

Developments at the regional and local level

In the UK, and in England particularly, the regional level is becoming increasingly important. Culture is a devolved responsibility within Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and in the English Regions. Resource funds a Regional Agency with a responsibility for museums, archives and libraries, in each of the English regions, and a joint working group on ICT has been established. In Wales a new body, CyMAL, is to be established as part of the Welsh Assembly to provide strategic leadership for museums,

archives and libraries. An agreement has been signed establishing the relationships across the UK.

State of participation of small and medium size cultural institutions in digitisation

Many cultural institutions are already participating in digitisation projects, with over 400 smaller institutions taking part in NOF-digitise projects, or their own initiatives developed with a wide range of funding sources.

The current situation in museums and archives will be established by a Web-based survey about to be launched by Resource and its Regional Agencies, and is also likely to be adopted in Scotland. A recent survey conducted by the Council of Museums in Wales has found that only 12% of museums do not use computers, 64% have a Website, 80% use the Internet and email and 84% record their collections on computer. Digitisation remains a priority, but many museums cannot yet offer access to their collections, either on the Internet or within their buildings. Archives are likely to show a slower adoption of technology, but the figures are indicative of the significant progress that is being made. All UK public libraries offer broadband public access to the Internet, with over 90% having broadband connectivity, and a pilot programme funded by Resource is connecting a small number of museums and archives to broadband this year. The forthcoming survey will establish the baseline for measuring progress towards achieving the e-Europe 2005 Action Plan target for museums, libraries and archives to have broadband connections by 2005.

<http://www.cmw.org.uk/>

<http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/content/ictsurvey.asp>

Use of NRG/MINERVA results and impact

At this stage, the results of MINERVA are embedded into policy developments at all levels, and this will increase in the future with the completion of the Good practice handbook, the Technical Guidelines and the Quality Principles. The Quality Principles will be particularly important, helping to develop a common understanding of the target at which the sectors should be aiming.