EDINA Awarded RSGS Bartholomew Globe for Geographic Services

The Board of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) has awarded EDINA the Society's 2014 Bartholomew Globe, in recognition of services to geography, including developing and delivering shared services and infrastructure for research and education and in promoting the teaching of Geographical Information Science (GIS) in Scottish schools.

Margaret Wilkes, Convener of RSGS’s Collections & Information Committee and one of RSGS’s Board of Directors presented the award, saying:

“The Bartholomew Globe is awarded for excellence in the assembly, delivery or application of geographical information through cartography and GIS, and the contribution and work of EDINA more than merits this award. We think of its key role in Digimap, of its GoGeo website – and of its ready dissemination of the contents of the 1st and 2nd Statistical Accounts of Scotland – treasure troves of geo-spatial information. But let us not forget the other excellent initiatives of EDINA, all of which have in their way greatly increased geo-spatial information availability to the education world. It is EDINA’s dissemination of such data that so delights our Society as an educational charity, for from its inception in 1884, RSGS has put education at the core of our work, and EDINA in our view brilliantly exemplifies this.”

EDINA have been running services providing educational institutions with online maps and geographic data for over 15 years and are extremely proud to receive this recognition.

Peter Burnhill, Director of EDINA, said

“This is a great honour. The award of the RSGS Bartholomew Globe recognises both the present contribution of individuals at EDINA and also the work of staff across EDINA, front and back office, who ensure that mapping data and geospatial tools are accessible online across all disciplines and available for all universities, colleges and schools across the UK. This tribute is triggered by the flagship Digimap online mapping service which enhances learning in universities, colleges and schools, and is also due to the achievements in EDINA and the Data Library over a 20 to 30 year period.”

New Digimap registration system

A new registration system for Digimap came into operation at the end of January. The new system allows for online registration and instant access.

Registration is now an automated two-step process. Users supply their details to register and then activate access to collections by agreeing to individual licences.

Existing users will not notice any change unless they have not been active in a collection for more than 12 months.

More details on the Digimap blog: digimap.blogs.edina.ac.uk/tag/new-registration-system/

15 years of success with Digimap

Digimap was launched in January 2000. The service is now embedded in UK academia, with over 58,000 registered users at 160 universities and colleges. In addition, we have versions for Colleges and Schools.

A presentation at the Royal Geographical Society Annual conference highlighted the growth of the service and recent developments: slidesha.re/1zzw0cF

Digimap: digimap.edina.ac.uk
Blog: digimap.blogs.edina.ac.uk
RIOXX version 2.0 metadata profile released to help UK Open Access Repositories

The RIOXX team is pleased to announce the release of version 2.0 of the RIOXX metadata application profile and guidelines.

The following resources are now available:

- metadata application profile
- guidelines for repository managers
- XML Schema files and resources

The team would like to acknowledge the significant support in particular of Ben Ryan (RCUK) and Ben Johnson (HEFCE) in preparing this version 2.0 release, and would also like to thank the many contributors who have offered reviews, suggestions and corrections over the last few months. RIOXX 2.0 is a significantly improved metadata application profile thanks to the level and quality of input we have received from the community.

We would also like to thank Jisc for having provided funding and support for the crucial early stages in the development of the RIOXX application profile.

RIOXX website: riox.net

New County Surveys blog

A new blog has been launched for ‘The County Surveys of Great Britain: 1793 – 1817’ project.

The County Surveys of Great Britain are the earliest surveys of their kind in the world. Between 1793 and 1817 they recorded comprehensive information on the agriculture, rural and political economy of each county in Great Britain. They provide a unique insight into the innovation and agricultural improvement during a significant period in the making of Britain as the first industrial nation.

This resource is currently under-used because very few surveys are available in digital format, and printed copies are difficult to locate and access. This project will explore how the creation of a virtual collection can unleash the potential of the County Surveys for discovery.

The blog marks a new phase of the project as we begin to prepare for the release of the online collection demonstrator, which will be launched in Summer 2015. As well as documenting the project, the blog will allow us to share information about the surveys and give an insight into the development work that has gone into creating this rich bibliographic resource.

County Surveys blog: countysurveys.blogs.edina.ac.uk
Project: edina.ac.uk/projects/county-survey_summary.html

SUNCAT: 100th library and new browsing brings strong start to 2015

The SUNCAT team is very proud to announce that The National Archives is our 100th Contributing Library. Just over 1600 serials records from The National Archives Library have been added to the database. This milestone makes it a fantastic start to the year.

The National Archives, located at Kew in Richmond, Surrey, is the UK government's official archive. Its collection of over 11 million historical government and public records houses documents ranging from the Domesday Book to modern government papers and digital files; the collection includes paper and parchment, electronic records and websites, photographs, posters, maps, drawings and paintings.

Browsing introduced in new release of SUNCAT

SUNCAT has been upgraded with a release including a number of new features and fixes to some existing bugs. The most significant new addition will enable you to browse as well as search SUNCAT.

Other new features include improvements to how the Institution and Format filters interact on the search results page, and to the responsive design so that SUNCAT should work better on your tablet or mobile. A range of fixes will help the service run more smoothly and intuitively.

10 years of SUNCAT reviewed in Ariadne article

The article ‘SUNCAT: Ten Years and Beyond’ has just been published in Ariadne, the Web Magazine for Information Professionals Issue 73: www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue73/jenkins
Written by Celia Jenkins, SUNCAT Bibliographic Assistant, it charts the beginnings of SUNCAT and the ways it has developed to meet the challenges and changes in scholarly communication and technology.

SUNCAT: suncat.ac.uk
Scholarly Context Not Found: One in Five Articles Suffers from Reference Rot

As the scholarly communication system evolves to become natively web-based, hyperlinks are increasingly used to refer to web resources that are created or used in the course of the research process. The highly dynamic nature of the Web means these hyperlinks are subject to 'Reference Rot', e.g. either link rot when the link is broken and no longer work, or content drift when the link points to a content that is drastically different to what it was originally.

Over the last 21 months, the Hiberlink project has focussed on quantifying Reference Rot in scholarly communications and investigating approaches aimed at alleviating it. The results of this work are now coming through.

It is staggering that for more than 70% of papers that link to web pages, revisiting the originally referenced web content proved impossible. These vanishing references undermine the long-term integrity of the scholarly record.

The quantification methods developed by the Hiberlink project, and the results of their application to a large data corpus of 3.5 million scientific publications, are presented in the recently published (26 December 2015) Plos One paper: journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0115253

Awareness of Reference Rot, and of the Hiberlink approaches to pro-active archiving and temporal references as possible solutions, was raised through presentations at 23 international conferences in 13 countries and over 4 continents. See the full list at hiberlink.org/dissemination.html

A four-month extension (to the end of June 2015) was agreed by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation to enable the team to conduct further analysis on the Reference Rot and continue our dissemination efforts.

Amongst upcoming events, Hiberlink will be the subject of a breakout session at UKSG 2015 in Glasgow on 30 & 31 March 2015. Come and find out more: www.uksg.org/sites/uksg.org/files/UKSGProgramme2015_web_v2.pdf

Hiberlink is a collaborative project between EDINA and the Language Technology Group in Informatics at the University of Edinburgh, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory Research Library. This project is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation.

Hiberlink website: hiberlink.org

SafeNet survey of UK HE institutions

In January 2015, Jisc Collections carried out a survey of its membership in order to understand the post-cancellation access needs of the UK HE community. We are now making available the results of that survey on the SafeNet blog.

SafeNet is a Jisc project to simplify the route to articles when a current subscription is no longer in place and access via the publisher’s platform is either unavailable or unaffordable. The project aims to develop the foundations of national archive infrastructure to host a UK collection of archived e-journals and clarify continuing access rights through use of an entitlement registry that will record subscription history.

The survey

Thirty-seven people representing 35 institutions – approximately 25% of UK higher education institutions – completed an online questionnaire which was sent out on three mailing lists aimed at librarians. The detailed free text responses given to many of the questions will take longer to analyse, so a preliminary report is designed to give early indicative feedback to the community.

Read more on the SafeNet blog: safenet.blogs.edina.ac.uk

Keepers Extra builds on success of The Keepers Registry

Jisc have invested in Keepers Extra, a community-driven project designed to build on the success of the Keepers Registry service, which provides easily accessible information about the archiving arrangements for electronic journals.

Though Keepers Registry is becoming established as an important tool in library workflows, the challenge of increasing preservation coverage remains, hence the need for Keepers Extra.

As well as enabling feature developments that will ensure the service is useful to the library community and Keeper agencies, it will encourage new archiving agencies to join the Keepers community and lay the foundations for collaboration among key stakeholders both nationally and internationally.

Strategically, Keepers Extra lets us explore how as a community we might work together to increase the preservation coverage of scholarly e-journals.

Keep up to date with the project by reading the new Keepers Extra blog: keepers-extra.blogs.edina.ac.uk
COBWEB is key participant at Citizen Observatory event

Over 130 delegates from across Europe gathered in Brussels in December 2014 for “Citizens’ Observatories: Empowering European Society”, an event organised by the European Commission, and the five Citizens Observatories projects.

COBWEB was delighted to be part of this event, which brought together experts and practitioners from a wide range of European citizen science initiatives and policy making bodies for presentations, demos and discussion focusing on the role and opportunities for active citizen participation in environmental monitoring and policy making.

The COBWEB project was well represented across the event with:

- a stand for the project throughout the day
- a presentation from Co-ordinator Chris Higgins (EDINA) introducing the project to all those attending
- participation by Colin Chapman from the Welsh Government (a COBWEB project partner) in the ‘Citizens Observatories and their value for decision making’ session
- Bart De Lathouwer (OGC Europe) representing the project in the Panel Session on Citizens’ Observatories

Full story on COBWEB website: bit.ly/1aijDNo

GoGeo iPhone App released to support teaching, learning and research

GoGeo is a Geospatial resource discovery tool for education and research. EDINA, with support from Jisc, has recently launched a mobile app to complement the web based service.

The app allows users to keep abreast of news and events in the geospatial sector. GoGeo Mobile is separated into a number of channels including News, Events, Jobs and Resources for Teachers, each containing useful and relevant resources for anyone working with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing or spatial data.

GoGeo Mobile also allows users to perform targeted searches for spatial data, defined by keyword and/or location and return a brief description of the data; users can then forward themselves a direct URL to the metadata record so they can download the data when they are back at their desk.

At present the app is available for iOS devices and can be downloaded for free from the Apple iStore, where it can be found by searching for ‘GoGeo Mobile’.

GoGeo website: www.gogeo.ac.uk/gogeo/

New staff

Claire Bradford
I’ve worked in the professional services sector for over 13 years. At EDINA, as Information Officer, I am responsible for information and knowledge management, document management and business intelligence.

Annie McGeechan
I joined EDINA as the project administrator for the COBWEB project. I have worked at Edinburgh University in various support roles, including three EU-funded projects under Framework programme 6 and 7.

Ceri Mick
I work as PA to the Director of EDINA, and as part of the Admin team. I previously worked at Cardiff Met University as PA to the Vice-Chancellor, and at the University of Oxford as PA to one of the Divisional Directors.

Liz Thomas
I joined EDINA in December, having spent three years away from the workplace writing a novel for children. Part of the Admin team, my main focus is assisting the Bibliographic and Multimedia team with resource allocation.

Forthcoming events

EDINA events page: edina.ac.uk/events/

UKSG 38th Annual Conference and Exhibition
30 Mar - 1 Apr 2015, Glasgow, SECC

GISRUK 2015
14 – 17 April 2015, School of Geography, University of Leeds

ABOUT EDINA

A Jisc-designated centre for digital expertise and online service delivery, we are part of the “EDINA and Data Library” division of Information Services at the University of Edinburgh, where we develop and deliver shared services and infrastructure to support research and education in the UK.

For information on institutional subscription fees, visit the EDINA website, or contact us (details below).

How to contact us:
Tel: 0131 650 3302
Email: edina@ed.ac.uk
Web: edina.ac.uk
Suggestions and comments may be sent to edina@ed.ac.uk