

# Supporting digitisation in the UK: JISC current activities and future plans

e-Resources

RLUK Conference 2008, Leeds



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- About JISC and Content team
- Digitisation programme
- Existing challenges
- Current activities and future plans

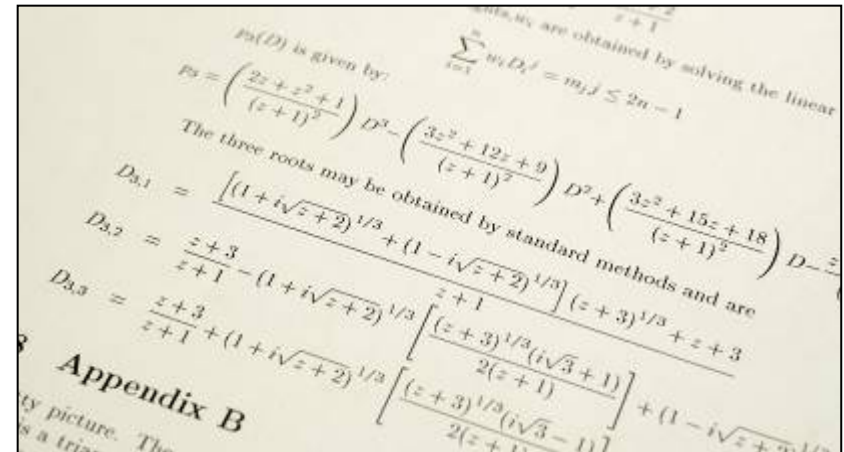


- JISC's strategic themes:
  - Network; Information Environment; Access management; e-Learning; e-Resources; e-Research; e-Administration; and Business and community engagement
- Broad funding remit: ICT infrastructure, advisory services, programmes and projects
- Content team:
  - Digitisation Programme
  - Strategic Content Alliance (SCA)
  - Links with other programmes, services and activities, eg coordination with JISC Collections in licencing of content

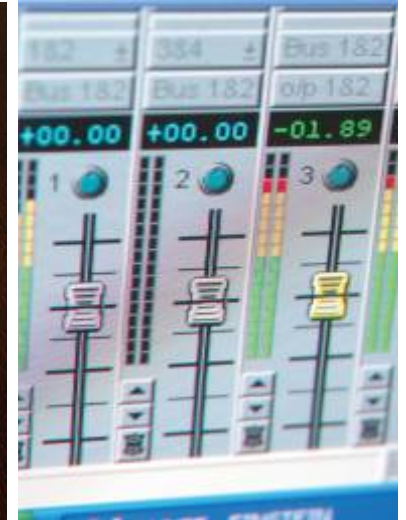


## Digitisation Programme

- **Digitisation Phase 1**
  - 2004-07, 6 projects, c. £6m
- **Digitisation Phase 2**
  - 2007-09, 16 projects, c. £12m
  - Large scale digitisation
  - Different sources of funding within JISC
- **Enriching digital resources**
  - 2008-09, 25 projects, c. £1.9m
  - Small scale digitisation and enhancement of current e-resources
- **Wide range in skills and experience and size of projects**

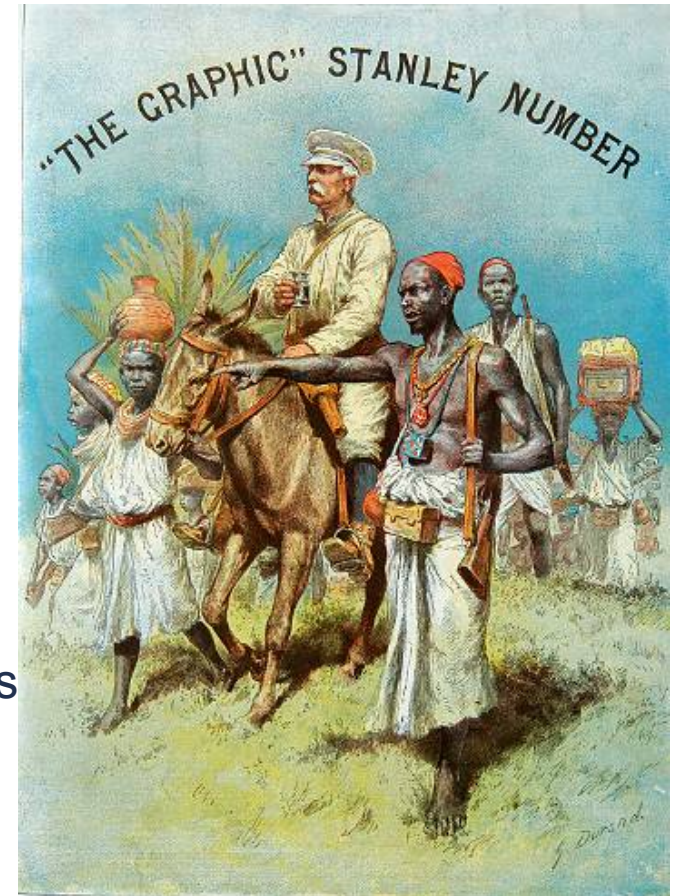


- Collections spanning five centuries of social, political, economic and cultural history in the UK
- Variety of formats
- Variety of institutions and partnerships
- Materials difficult to access, fragile and of educational value
- Relevant to curricula and research interests



## Outcomes and achievements

- Authoritative **content**, contextualisation and critical mass
  - Welsh journals; Irish resources; newspapers...
- **Usable and re-usable** resources
  - Licences and IPR framework
- Range of **sustainability** models
  - Public private partnership; use of existing infrastructures; embedding in institutional strategy
- **User engagement**
  - First World War Poetry Archive; Cabinet papers
- **Standards** based
  - Digital capture, description and preservation



## Strategic Content Alliance

- **Strategic Content Alliance (SCA)**
- Aims to build a common information environment underpinned by a **UK e-Content Framework** of principles and good practices
- Reducing barriers to publicly funded e-content that currently inhibit access, use and re-use of e-content
- Pan-UK cross sector initiative funded by: JISC; BBC; British Library; Becta; NHS; MLA; EPSRC
- Work on: Audience analysis; Interoperability; Standards, IPR, Business models,
  - eg report on *Sustainability and Revenue Models for Online Academic Resources*





## Existing challenges

- **Existing challenges** within the wider digitisation landscape:
  - A lot can be digitised, but how do we know what **users** want? (JISC survey)
  - A lot has been digitised, but how do we **maximise use and awareness?** (LAIRAH study)
  - Users might come, but how do we know what **impact** a resource has?
  - A lot out there, but will it still be there tomorrow? Are resources **sustainable?** Often **project-based approach** (OCLC report, Shifting Gears)
- Challenges also highlighted at the JISC Digitisation Conference 2007



- **Prioritising Digitisation: Establishing Users' Needs for Digitised Content in UK HE Institutions**
- More strategic and focused approach to digitisation to counter-act the “drop-in-the-ocean” effect
- University of Strathclyde and Manchester Metropolitan University (**DiSCMap** project)
- Co-funded by JISC and RIN
- Collaboration with RLUK
- Findings available from Spring 2009



- **Usage and Impact Study of JISC-funded Phase 1 Digitisation projects and Toolkit for the Impact of Digitised Scholarly Resources**
- Need to assess usage of digital resources and useful metrics to measure their impact
- Oxford Internet Institute
- Quantitative and Qualitative Measures
- Toolkit for the Impact of Digitised Scholarly Resources (metrics, processes, tools)
- Dissemination Spring 2009

## ■ Collection Enhancement: improving usage

- Increasing use and improving usability of existing digital content
- Development of finding aids/metadata – new ways
- Enhancement of interfaces
- Embedding in teaching and learning
- Promotion and marketing of resources
- Eg: Enriching the First World War

Poetry Archive

(Enriching Digital Resource programme)



- **Clustering and Theming: improving access**
  - Tackling the “silo” effect: bringing together and presenting resources on the basis of academic subject, chronological periods, themes of interest (e.g. 19th Century, Parliament).
  - This clustering can be done on the basis of “marketing” or “infrastructure” e.g. “portals” based within academic settings
  - Eg: Anglo-Saxon Cluster (Enriching Digital Resource programme)

- **Institutional Skills and Strategies: sustaining content**
  - Support for the development of institutional **capacity, infrastructures and skills**, as well as **policy and strategy** development, for the creation and management of high quality digital collections
  - Funding at institutional level and across institutions
  - Eg: VERsatile Digitisation framework project, VERDI (British Cartoon Archive, Enriching Digital Resource programme)



## In Conclusion...

- **Current and future investment in:**
  - Finding out more about users' needs
  - Finding out more about impact of resources
  - Maximising the benefits of past investments (collections enhancement, clustering and theming)
  - Supporting institutions in embedding digitisation into current practices
  
- **Your feedback welcome...**

