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The JISC Digitisation Programme

Keynote Item

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The JISC Digitisation Programme

JISC

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The JISC Digitisation Programme

Presentation for the UKSG Annual Conference 7-9 April 2008

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London School of Economics

With thanks to Dicky Maidment-Otlet and the JISC Communications and Marketing team for the slides with visuals

www.jisc.ac.uk/digitisation

The JISC Digitisation Programme

Genesis of Phase 1

- £10m HEFCE “windfall” given to JCS in 2004
- Advisory Group set up to oversee the programme – JCS members and others
- Extant proposals for content to be digitised
- Group wanted community consultation too, and this brought more bids to the table
- Followed by a unique open ranking exercise

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Phase 1

- 18th Century British Parliamentary Papers
- Medical Journals Backfiles
- Online Historical Population Reports
- British Library Archival Sound Recordings
- British Newspapers 1800-1900 (BL)
- Newsfilm Online

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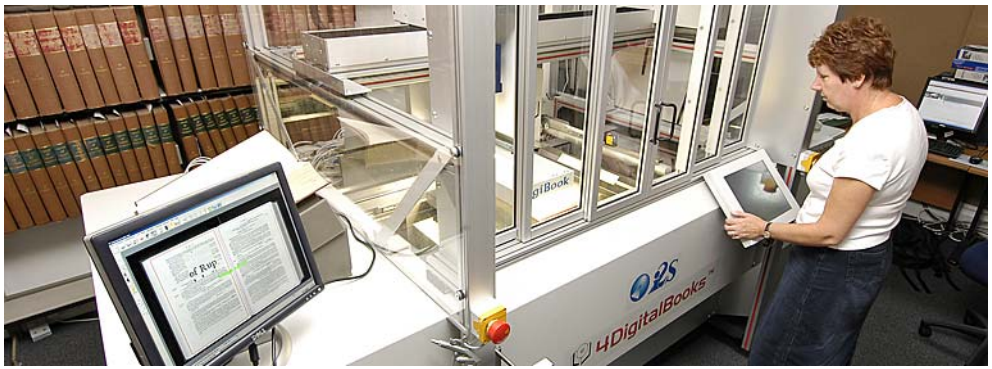
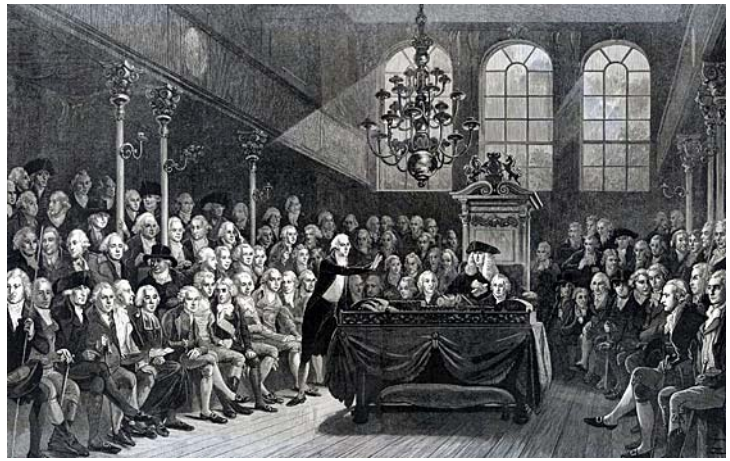
18th Century Parliamentary Papers

- Bringing all existing records of Britain's 18th century Parliament to users across the UK
- House of Commons papers and bills
- House of Lords papers and bills
- One million pages





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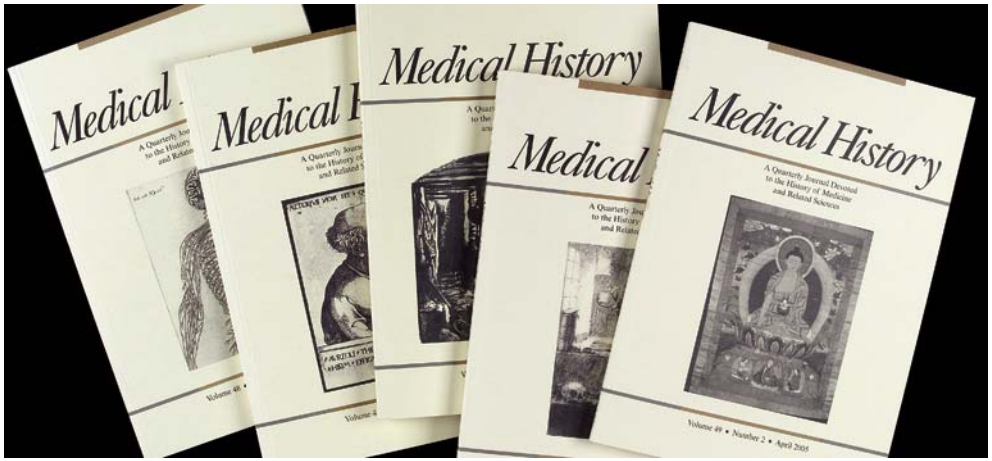
Medical Journals Backfiles

- Free access to the best in medical publications
- From 1809 to today and into the future
- Two million pages



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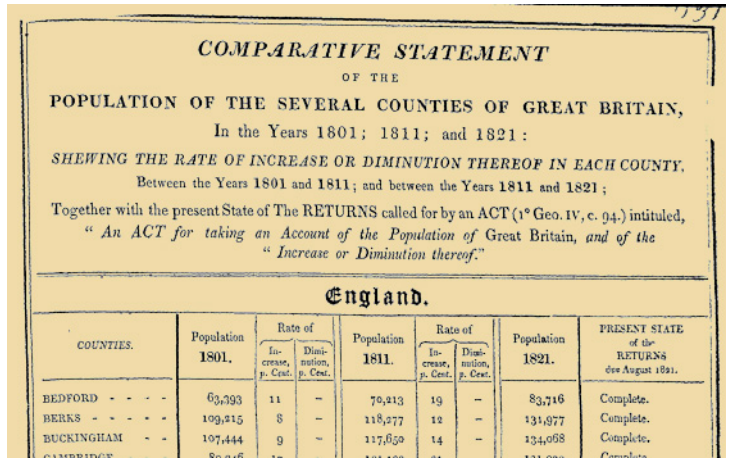
Online Historical Population Reports

- Two hundred thousand pages of British population reports from 1801 to 1936
- Covering demography, the economy and sociology



COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

OF THE

POPULATION OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN,

In the Years 1801; 1811; and 1821:

SHEWING THE RATE OF INCREASE OR DIMINUTION THEREOF IN EACH COUNTY,

Between the Years 1801 and 1811; and between the Years 1811 and 1821;

Together with the present State of The RETURNS called for by an ACT (1° Geo. IV, c. 94.) intituled,

"An ACT for taking an Account of the Population of Great Britain, *and of the Increase or Diminution thereof."*

England.

COUNTIES.	Population 1801.	Rate of Increase, p. Cent.	Rate of Diminution, p. Cent.	Population 1811.	Rate of Increase, p. Cent.	Rate of Diminution, p. Cent.	Population 1821.	PRESENT STATE of the RETURNS dec. August 1821.
BEDFORD	63,393	11	–	70,213	19	–	83,716	Complete.
BERKS	109,215	8	–	118,277	12	–	131,977	Complete.
BUCKINGHAM	107,444	9	–	117,659	14	–	134,068	Complete.

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British Library Archival Sound Recordings

- Popular Music
- Soundscapes
- The African Writers Club
- The Oral History of Jazz in Britain
- Visual Arts Interviews
- David Rycroft South Africa recordings
- The Klaus Wachsmann Uganda recordings
- Records and record players
- Sony Radio Awards

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British Newspapers 1800-1900

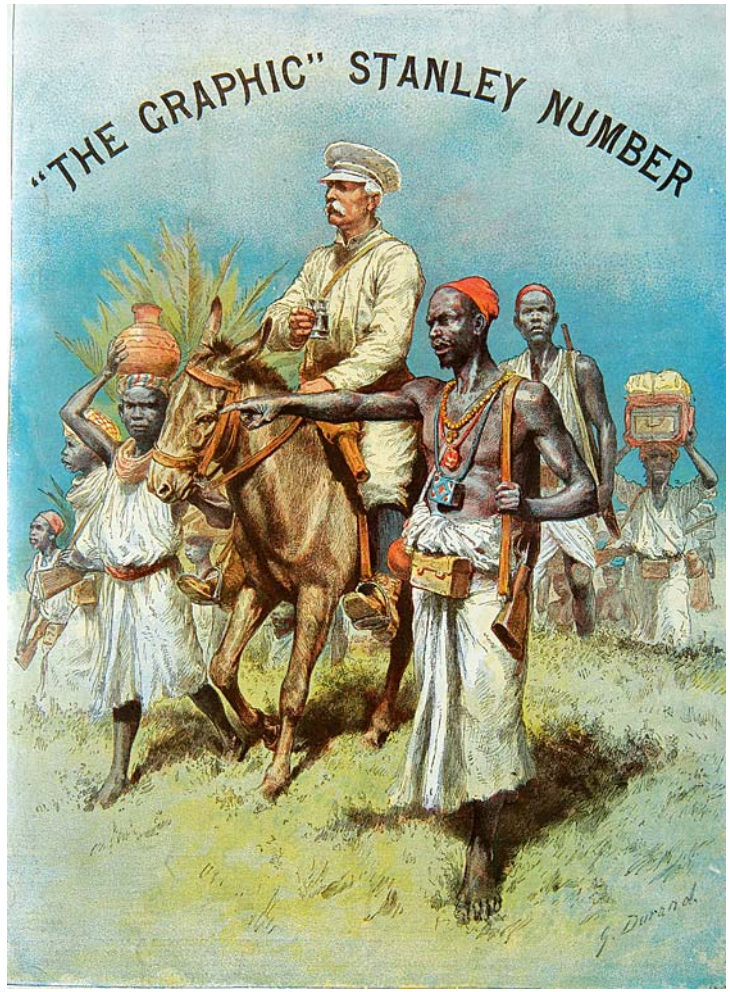
- Two million pages from national, regional and local papers.
- Searchable
- Accessible
- Delivered online

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. Pope.

No. 691.

DEATH OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.



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Newsfilm Online

- Digitisation of the ITN and Reuters news archives
- 60,000 clips
- 3,000 hours
- Users can search, download and embed the clips

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Evaluation of Phase 1

- Among the largest digitisation activity in Europe
- Most advanced and integrated programme
- Wide range of subject content and format
- Good practice established across many fronts
- Significant achievements
- Independent evaluation by Evidence Base

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Achievements of Phase 1

- Standards (technical, metadata, presentational)
- Unique agreements with commercial partners
- Improved framework for IPR usage in HE/FE
- Exemplars for increased interoperability including open source
- Problems overcome, especially in multimedia
- JISC digitisation strategy starts to emerge

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Lessons learned from Phase 1

- Lessons learned encompass all aspects of the digitisation process:
- User consultation, procurement, metadata
- IPR, quality assurance, indexing
- Project management, risk register
- Interface development, accessibility
- Promotion

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Lessons learned from Phase 1

- Metadata very important *from the outset*
- Evaluation needed *throughout the project*
- Impact assessment desirable, requiring projects to build in *from the start* necessary licences and arrangements, especially for web log analysis
- An expert user panel is best for selection of content
- Lessons learned to be captured as project progresses

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Phase 2

- Sixteen new exciting projects - £12m
- Lessons learned in Phase 1 were built into the bidding guidelines and selection criteria for Phase 2
- A consultation exercise invited the community to rank the bids
- Selection was based on the marks of an expert panel and the rankings from the consultation

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Digitisation of the Independent Radio News Archive

- Seven thousand reel to reel tapes
- Archive covers 1973 to the mid 1990s
- Over four thousand hours of recordings
- Bournemouth University

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British Cartoon Archive Digitisation (BCAD) Project

- Fifteen thousand Giles cartoons
- Five thousand pages of related paperwork
- Cross searchable with 123,000 other cartoons in the collection
- University of Kent

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Pre-Raphaelite Resource Site

- Three thousand high quality digital images
- Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery
- Artists include:
  - Edward Burne-Jones
  - Ford Madox Brown
  - John Everett Millais
  - Dante Gabriel Rossetti
  - William Holman Hunt
  - Arthur Hughes
  - Frederick Sandys
  - Simeon Solomon

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Electronic Ephemera

- The John Johnson Collection contains 1.5 million items from 1508 to 1939
- 65,000 items digitised
- 150,000 images
- University of Oxford

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The East London Theatre Archive

- 15,000 digital objects
- Images, papers, photographs, artifacts
- University of East London

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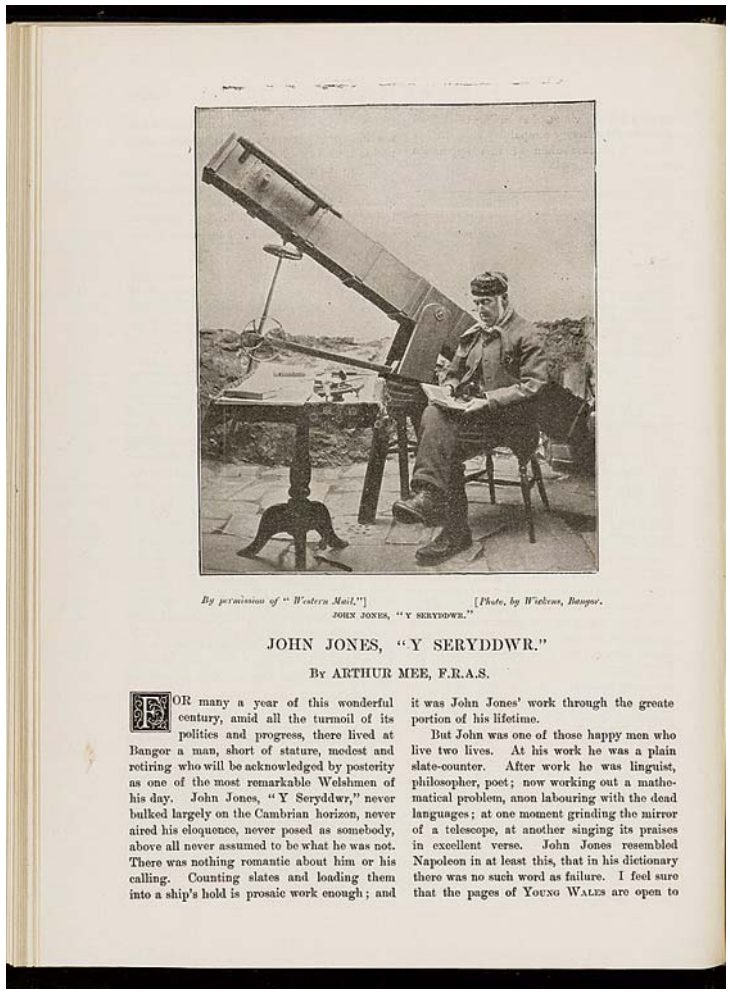
Modern Welsh Journals Online

- A selection of 20th and 21st century Welsh and Wales-related journals
- These materials cover a very wide range of subject areas, including: humanities, social sciences, science and technology
- National Library of Wales



By permission of "Western Mail."] [*Photo, by Wickens, Bangor.*

JOHN JONES, "Y SERYDDWR."

JOHN JONES, "Y SERYDDWR."

By ARTHUR MEE, F.R.A.S.

FOR many a year of this wonderful century, amid all the turmoil of its politics and progress, there lived at Bangor a man, short of stature, modest and retiring who will be acknowledged by posterity as one of the most remarkable Welshmen of his day. John Jones, "Y Seryddwr," never bulked largely on the Cambrian horizon, never aired his eloquence, never posed as somebody, above all never assumed to be what he was not. There was nothing romantic about him or his calling. Counting slates and loading them into a ship's hold is prosaic work enough; and it was John Jones' work through the greate portion of his lifetime.

But John was one of those happy men who live two lives. At his work he was a plain slate-counter. After work he was linguist, philosopher, poet; now working out a mathematical problem, anon labouring with the dead languages; at one moment grinding the mirror of a telescope, at another singing its praises in excellent verse. John Jones resembled Napoleon in at least this, that in his dictionary there was no such word as failure. I feel sure that the pages of YOUNG WALES are open to

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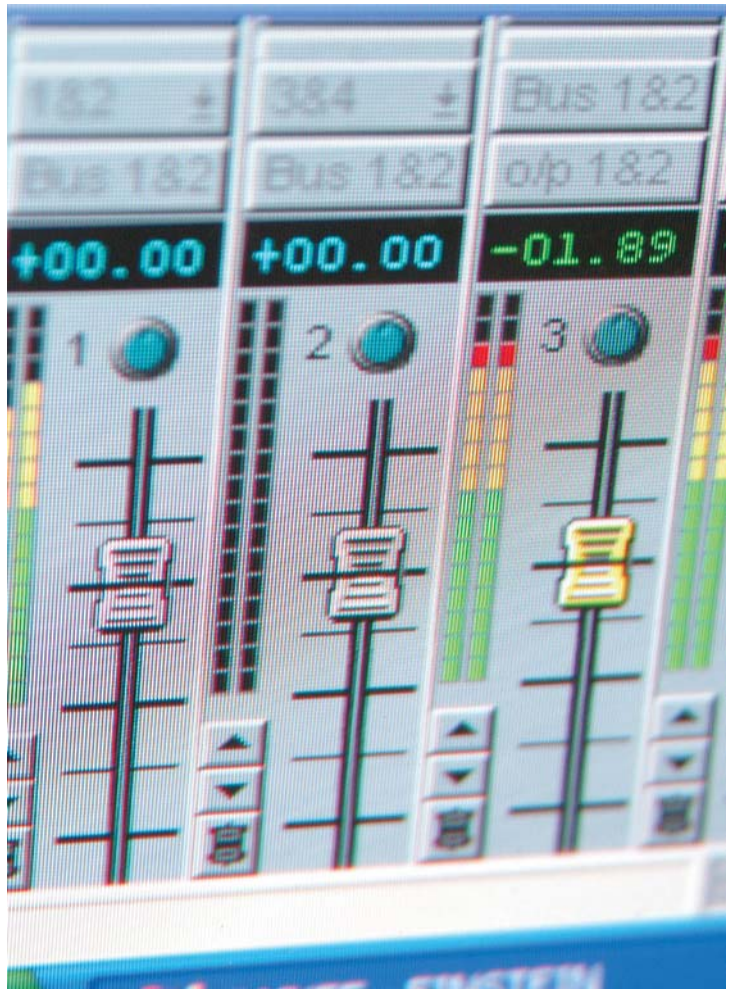
British Library Archival Sound Recordings 2

- Building on the work of the first Archival Sound project
- Covering:
  - Michael Gerzon Recordings
  - Recordings of Canonical Classical Repertoire 926-1956
  - Institute of Contemporary Arts, London – Talks, 1981-1992
  - Early Record Catalogues (images)
  - Decca West Africa "Yellow Label" Series
  - Early Spoken Word Recordings
  - Sony Radio Awards 1986 and 1997 – News and Current Affairs
  - Holocaust Survivors' Centre
  - Traditional Music in England



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British Governance in the 20th century

- Half a million images containing the full text of the Cabinet Papers
- These collections of minutes and memoranda constitute a fascinating record of the way in which the British government grappled with events of the 20th century
- The National Archives

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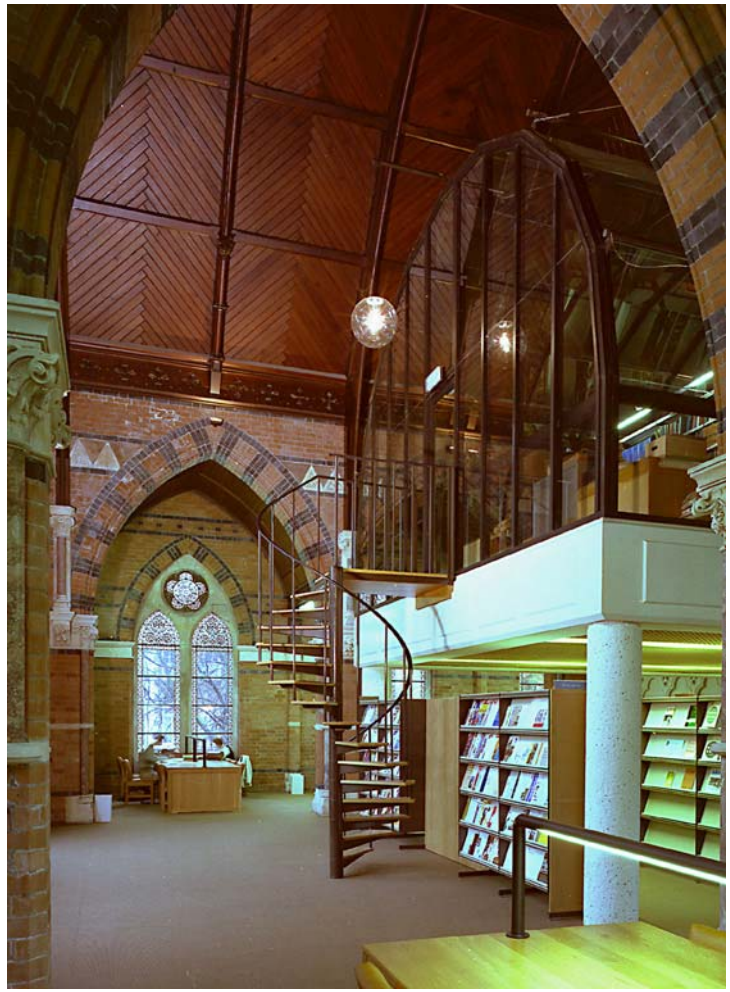
A Digital Library of Core e-Resources on Ireland

- Comprehensive, multi-disciplinary - for scholars seeking convenient and comprehensive e-resources relating to Ireland
- Queen's University Belfast



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19th Century Pamphlets Online – phase 1

- One million images from around 30,000 pamphlets
- Hume tracts, Early Grey pamphlets, Knowsley pamphlet collection, Cowen tracts, The National Liberal Club pamphlets, Foreign and Commonwealth pamphlets, selected pamphlets from LSE
- University of Southampton and six other CURL libraries

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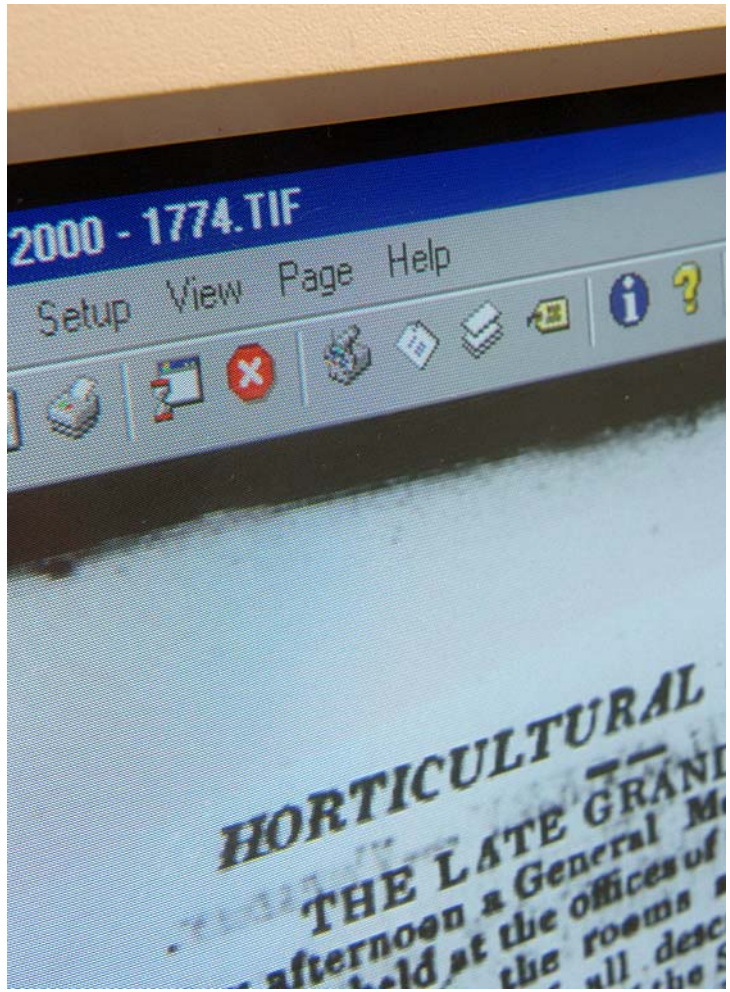
British Newspapers 1620-1900

- 1.1 million pages from national, regional and local newspapers
- Building on previous work to create a digitised collection of 4 million pages
- British Library



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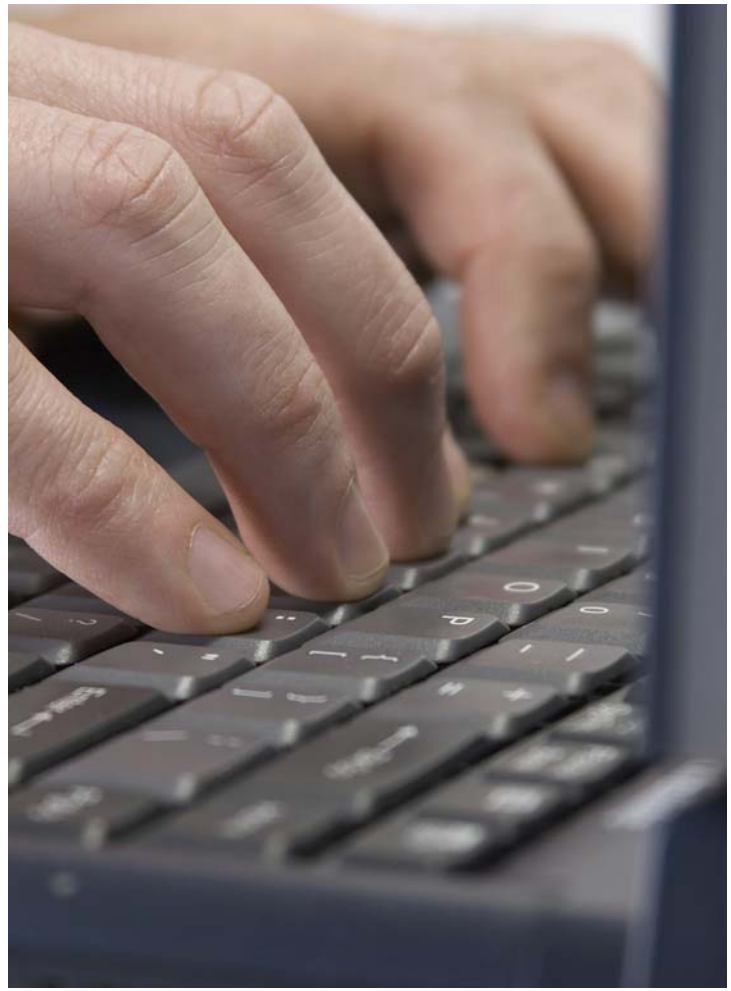
UK Theses Digitisation Project

- The digitisation of over five thousand paper-borne UK theses will 'kick start' the EThOS service, which will allow open access to theses in electronic form
- British Library



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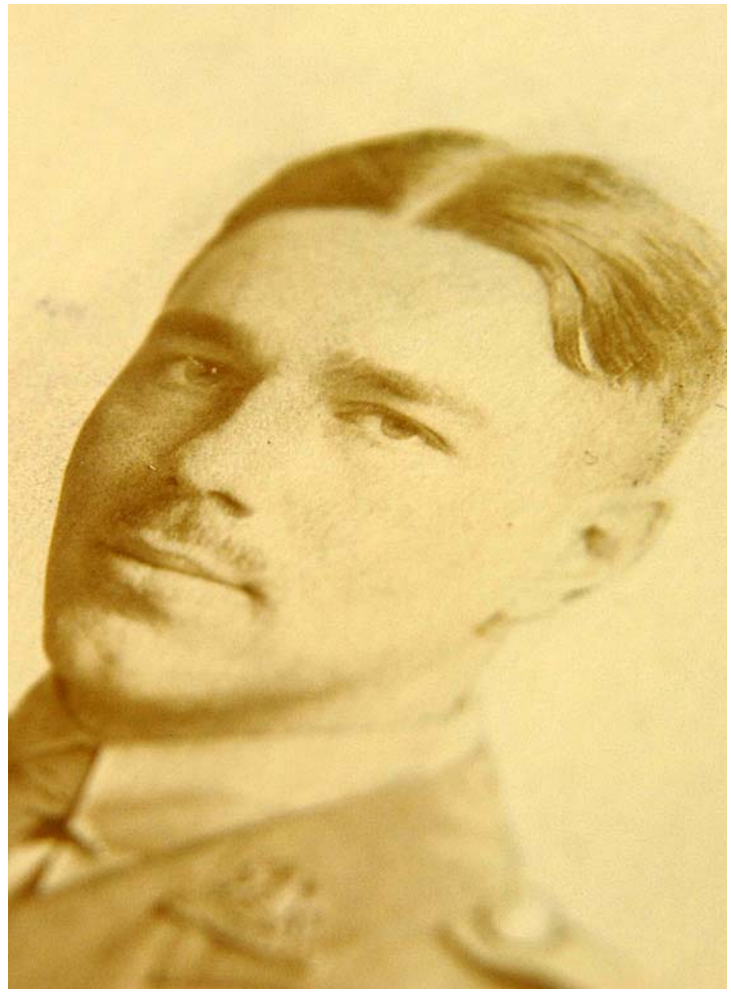
First World War Poetry Digital Archive

- Will contain the poetry of five British poets of the Great War, Edward Thomas, Robert Graves, Vera Brittain, Isaac Rosenberg and Roland Leighton
- Contextualising the archive will be over two hundred images, audio and video clips from the Great War
- University of Oxford



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Voices: Moving Images in the Public Sphere

- Films and television programming reviewing the UK economy, its industries, transport and agriculture, tracing the radical shifts each has undergone in the past 60 years and the social impact
- Material concerning the health services, education, immigration, multi-culturalism and regionalism tracking 70 years of public debate and shifts in prevailing national attitudes
- British Film Institute

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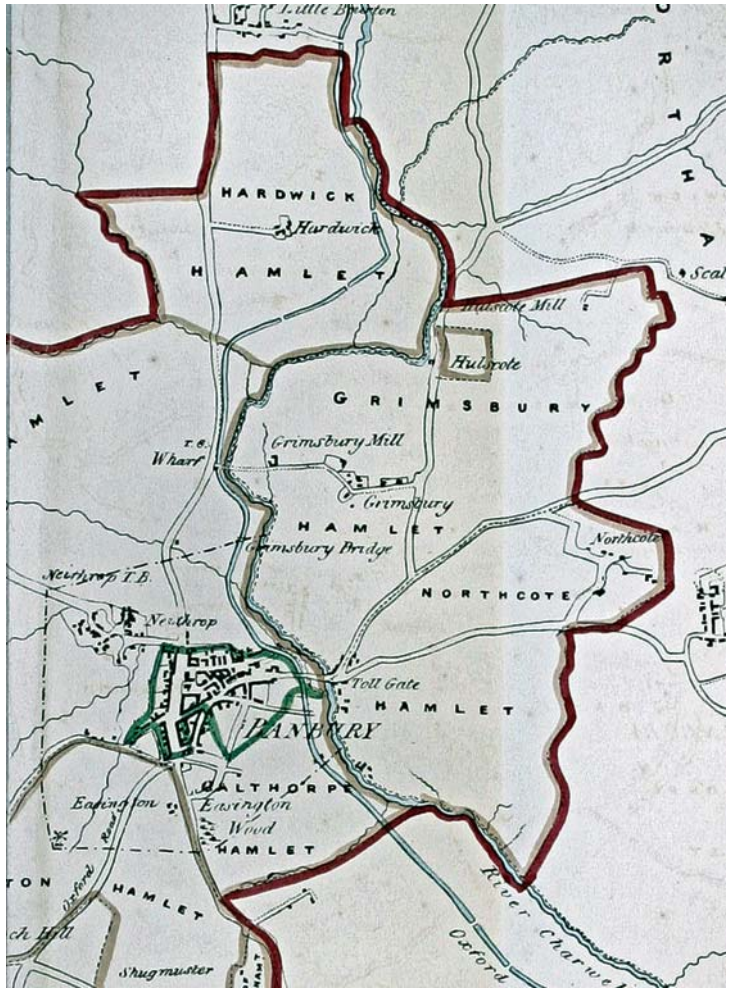
Historic Boundaries of Britain

- University of Portsmouth
- Collections to be digitised include:
  - St. Catharine's House Historic Map Library
  - Scottish administrative boundaries
  - Reports of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions, 1832 to 1954



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Historic Polar Images 1845-1960

- The archival collections held by the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, are among the richest in the world for the study of polar environments
- This project will develop a repository of freely available visual and textual resources to support learning, teaching and research into topics relating to the history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration and science
- Scott-Polar Research Institute

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Preparations for Phase 3

- Timing is everything, and it's very tight
- Aiming for next capital round, before Phase 2 finishes
- Attempting usage/impact assessment of Phase 1 projects, but statistics not built in from the start
- May have to rely on a broader impact study focusing on some quantitative and qualitative indicators
- Evidence from the international conference (July 2007), Phase 1 evaluation, built-in formative evaluation in Phase 2, links with JISC, HEFCE and Government initiatives and strategies will help

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Preparations for Phase 3

- Underspend being used to prepare more evidence
- To signal sound thinking even if some of the results are too late for the Phase 3 bid
- These include:
- An updated JISC standards catalogue
- A gap analysis (into what the community needs and into the availability in the community of relevant large or significant collections)

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Preparations for Phase 3

- Underspend also to cover:
- Producing guidelines for securing IPR rights for moving images and sound
- Investigating the development of thematic portals to make resources more comparable and usable, possibly extended to cover JISC Collections
- Creation of a UK Forum for Digitisation

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The wider landscape and implications for libraries

- All Phase 1 and 2 projects will be free at the point of use to UK HE and FE
- Some will also be available to schools and public libraries
- A few will be on completely open access
- An enormous mass of digitised material, much of it unique, representing UK heritage

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The wider landscape and implications for libraries

- Thematic portals will be a great step forward for enhancing user experience
- There will be major challenges re access, especially if JISC Collections are included
- Mixing community and commercial content
- A future stage could see linking up with European and US initiatives, with challenges of all kinds especially IPR

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The wider landscape and implications for libraries

- Sustainability into the future is the biggest challenge
- Even for those projects which are finite (eg an entire collection has been digitised)
- Many projects will want to add content (eg Newsfilm Online, Newspapers, Sound Archive)
- The programme may be able to attract income from wider access overseas
- Ultimately librarians will probably have to be prepared to pay for licensed access (as with JISC Collections)

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Conclusions

- The programme has put the UK among the very top players in the global digitisation league
- HE and FE users will benefit from fantastic resources (and already are from Phase 1)
- Librarians need to be ready to a) promote the content and b) subscribe to it in the future as it grows and needs to be sustained and preserved
- We can all be very proud of this achievement