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Neil Stewart

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Charles Booth's London: bringing together maps and archives on the web

Neil Stewart
London School of Economics and
Political Science

The proposed demonstration will show Charles Booth's London[1], a newly redeveloped version of two LSE-hosted websites, the Charles Booth Online Archive (CBOA) and PhoneBooth. The former contained rich archival holdings of Booth's c19th notebooks and the ability to browse the Booth Poverty Maps, albeit in rudimentary fashion. CBOA was extremely out of date and required a thorough overhaul, to merge the archive of notebooks with some of the modern mapping and geolocation functionality provided by PhoneBooth. For the new site, particular attention was paid to design and usability, with a particular emphasis placed on accessibility and responsive design for use on tablets and mobile devices. A further driver for the project was the events at LSE to mark the centenary since Booth's death, which include LSE Research Festival 2016 and an LSE Library Exhibition.

The project involved a number of distinct stages:

1. Understanding where CBOA and PhoneBooth fits within LSE's portfolio of websites.
2. Understanding for whom the site should be redeveloped, and how those redevelopments would benefit those audiences.
3. Translating those requirements into a plan of action for the site itself and its technical underpinnings.
4. Procuring web development services from our web development partners, and briefing them on the previous stages of the project, then managing the tandem stages of web and technical development.
5. Launching and publicising the new site, which at the time of writing is due to occur at the end of November 2016.

The demonstration will show the new functionality of the site, in particular:

- The geo-location and geo-referencing functions that allow us to associate particular notebooks with points on the map.
- Use of the Universal Viewer, using the IIIF standard, to make available the Booth notebooks.
- The ways in which the web development and information architecture allows routes between notebooks and the map, and vice versa.

The demo should be of interest to archivists, librarians, and those interested in web applications for cultural heritage. Some attention will also be paid to the possibilities for further development of the site to better involve the audiences that make use of it.

[1] Newly redeveloped site to be launched late Nov/early Dec at: http://booth.lse.ac.uk/

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Correspondence should be addressed to Neil Stewart, LSE Library, 10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD.

The 12th International Digital Curation Conference takes place on 20–23 February 2017 in Edinburgh. URL: http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/idcc17/

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