

Online

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Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

£4.6 million pounds has been shared between [21 research projects](#) “addressing the challenges of working with big data and making the information more accessible and easier to interpret by a lay audience”. The Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities funding has been announced by David Willetts MP, and recipients include *Big Data for Law* (John Sheridan, National Archives) and *Lost Visions: retrieving the visual element of printed books from the nineteenth century* (Professor Julia Thomas, Cardiff University). The funding from the AHRC’s Big Data Research strand is also supported by the Economic & Social Research Council.

Meanwhile [a £450,000 research grant has become available](#) for a collaborative proposal to, “explore the future of academic books in the context of open access publishing and continuing digital change” starting in October. The AHRC will fund *The Academic Future of the Book* project, Ann Jarvis - University of Cambridge Librarian - will chair and the AHRC and British Library will direct. The work is intended to complement the [HEFCE-led research](#) into monographs and open access publishing.

British Library

Up to 60 staff working for the UK MOOC provider [FutureLearn](#) are moving into the British Library at St Pancras following a, “commercial leasing agreement.” As an existing partner of FutureLearn the British Library are already working with Futurelearn on their MOOC development.

BUFVC/JISC

HE/FE subscribers to [BoB National](#) (BUFVC/JISC) are finding more than a million off-air TV and radio programmes available to them online. Following an [announcement](#) on February 3rd 2014, BBC TV and radio content now dates back to 2007. Ten foreign language channels are also available, as are searchable transcripts, one-click citations and Apple iOS compatibility.

Getty Publications

In January Getty Publications launched their new [Virtual Library](#) of more than 250 books from 1966 through to 2013. Titles from their back catalogue will continue to be added and sources for the collection include the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Conservation Institute and the Getty Research Institute. The collection includes art history research, exhibition catalogues and other publications on the visual arts. I have just taken a look at *Illuminating the Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting in Europe* Thomas Kren & Scot McKendrick (eds) 2013 and the Read Online option opens in Google Books. You can also download to PDF and there is bibliographic information from a WorldCat link.

Internet Archive

After the launch of their [Historical Software Archive](#) last year, the US-based [Internet Archive](#) have followed up with a [Console Living Room](#) where you can play a range of 70s and 80s console games online using the JSMESS emulator system. Click on one of the six consoles listed to see the games available. Back in the day I must have been reading instead of playing with these but I notice that the Astrocade console was designed by Midway, the videogame division of Bally who once made old school pinball tables.

Trinity College Dublin

In a partnership between Trinity College Dublin and Google Maps, a collection of 10,000 maps collected by the Fagel family of Amsterdam between 1630 and 1800 will be digitised and become freely available online. This [press release](#) describes how the high quality, well-preserved special collection at Trinity College Library includes street plans, battle plans and maps for sea navigation, focussing on, “where the Dutch had trading or colonial interests or areas of recent discovery.” The online resource resulting from the digitisation project will benefit from an image gallery, time selection and some 3D modelling.

Wellcome Library

More than 100,000 hi-res images sourced from the Wellcome Library historical holdings have been made available under the Creative Commons-Attribution only (CC-BY) licence. The [Wellcome Images press release](#) describes some snippets of content: a 3000-year-old Egyptian prescription on papyrus, illuminated medieval manuscripts, etchings by Van Gogh and Goya, Gillray satires and John Thomsons’ portrait photos from his travels in China in the nineteenth century. Galleries on the home page currently highlight AIDS posters, Olympic sports and tattoo designs. A “Download hi-res image” button is available for each image. I concur with Simon Chaplin, Head of the Wellcome Library, “... the collection amounts to a dizzying visual record of human culture.”

British Pathé

British Pathé have published their whole film archive to their [YouTube channel](#) in partnership with German firm MediaKraft. The archive comprises over 85,000 newsreel films made between 1896 and 1976 in the UK and around the world, “a dominant feature of the British cinema experience.” A quick scan of the channel finds this rare and quaint press [interview](#) with Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy arriving in Southampton dock in 1947 on the Queen Elizabeth. Find out more about this excellent project in the British Pathé [blog](#).

National Archives

The National Archives have begun to archive official UK government department tweets and YouTube videos for permanent preservation on the [UK Government Web Archive](#). Their [press release](#) says, “The UK government social media archive contains over 7,000 videos that date from 2006 to early 2014 and over 65,000 tweets from 2008 to September 2013.” An initial browse around the beta Twitter and Video archives didn’t find any announcements about public libraries or school libraries; I’ll try again soon.

National Library of Scotland

Six-inch to a mile Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales 1842-1952 are now [free to explore online](#) on the National Library of Scotland [website](#). Zoom to a location on the map

or type in a placename or postcode, then choose from the menu of maps offered. I've already been taking a look at my home near Aberystwyth; it has an Ordnance Survey [benchmark](#) on it, marking height above sea level. These are highlighted on the 1948 maps with a small black arrow and a reference in red.

Open Access

An important HEFCE-funded study [Open Access journals in Humanities and Social Science](#) by the British Academy has produced a number of findings which are generally positive with regard to the current embargo before research becomes available on OA repositories (2 years) and the stability of research relevance across disciplines as indicated by downloads. However there are problems for Research Council funding generated by the lack of OA availability outside the UK for disciplines such as English Literature and Modern Languages within current UK OA rules, and a lack of understanding and compliance internationally. The British Academy's [press release](#) also points to other factors impacting the research sector as OA expands, in particular recommending that, "the rising price of journals, at a time of budgetary restraints, needs to be addressed systemically."

Meanwhile the clock is ticking. HE funding councils for England, Scotland & Wales, and the Department for Employment and Learning, have announced that OA will be a requirement for UK research funding, "...from 2016 they will expect all articles submitted to the Research Excellence Framework (REF), a system for assessing the quality of research, to be available by open access" (JISC announcement [31/03/14](#)). The REF will be used subsequently, "to inform the selective allocation of their research funding to higher education institutions".

Finally on OA, Robert Kiley the Head of Digital Services at the Wellcome Library has written a very timely [blog](#) following up data regarding their OA publishing spend in the year 2012-2013. They have found that APC charges from traditional journal publishers are, "significantly higher than that charged by the born-digital open access publishers, like PLOS", and a case study of Elsevier found that a small number of papers submitted to them had not been made OA.

Oxford English Dictionary

In amongst the crop of [new sub-entries](#) for [the OED in March 2014](#) here's a few for librarians: book group, book-loving, scientific journal and semantic web.

Tate

A [new online audio archive](#) is now available from the Tate: [Audio Arts](#) magazine (1972-2004) was published in cassette tape form consisting of more than 1,640 interviews with artists and other individuals from the art world, plus sound performances and other sound works. Edited by the British sound artist William Furlong, Audio Arts interviewees include Andy Warhol, John Cage, Rachel Whiteread, Damien Hirst and Sam Taylor-Wood and most appear to have contributed more than once. The archive website includes scans of the cassette inlays and start time indexing where an audio clip includes multiple interviewees.