Online Resource Update

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Early English Books Online / Text Creation Partnership

"… more than 25,000 manually transcribed texts from the first 200 years of the printed book (1473-1700)", are now freely available to view online as part of a fantastic project begun in 1999. An international partnership comprising the University of Michigan Library, the University of Oxford's Bodleian Libraries, ProQuest, CLIR, Jisc and more than 160 partner libraries has made this herculean effort possible and the transcriptions of these often rare and fragile texts located in prestigious libraries worldwide are now fully searchable at http://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebogroup/ The University of Michigan's press release refers to gems by Chaucer, Homer and Isaac Newton, and to the wonders of the "less famous texts" such books on gardening, cookery, religious tracts, witchcraft, sword-fighting etc. Facsimile images of the books are available via subscription databases: EEBO (ProQuest) and as part of Jisc Historical Texts.

"We are opening up these fantastic books to people who wouldn't normally be able to access them. I'm fascinated to see what people will do with them," said Michael Popham, Head of Digital Collections at the Bodleian Libraries. Members of the public, teachers and researchers around the world can now have access to thousands of transcriptions of English texts published during the first two centuries of printing in England. "Searching a record on a library catalogue only takes you so far," Popham said. "Now you can search across all 25,000 texts and get results in seconds. It opens up the data for very scholarly uses, for example historical linguists analysing poetry from a specific period, or for members of the public who want to research their family history, their home town or even look up recipes from 400 years ago. The records are available to anybody with a curiosity for history and literature or early English life."

"The Bodleian Libraries has been heavily committed for the past 15 years to this extraordinary effort to make texts from this seminal period of history digitally available to members of the public and scholars worldwide," said Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian. "We hope this open resource will provide innumerable avenues for new digital forms of scholarly discovery and research." Taken together, the entire corpus opens up new research possibilities, particularly in such fields as digital humanities, corpus linguistics and text mining. It also creates opportunities for individuals to create new projects based on the transcriptions. As open data, the files are freely available for individuals to download, manipulate and repurpose or to republish as their own special editions.

Lorraine Estelle, executive director digital resources and divisional CEO of Jisc Collections, said: "Jisc is proud of the financial support it has provided to the Text Creation Partnership over a number of years. We look forward to the open access transcriptions

being used to support new research efforts across the digital humanities, beyond even those that have been made possible by the availability of Early English Books Online. The release of this material is not only a boost to the availability of research data, but a welcome contribution to Jisc's work in support of open access across the disciplines."

Folger Shakespeare Library / Adam Matthew

As part of a theatre-related collection planned for publication in Autumn 2016, Adam Matthew are to digitise the world's largest collection of prompt books including twelve "Smock Alley" prompt books from the seventeenth century Dublin theatre. Located in the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC, the books are copies of the plays annotated by/for the prompter or stage manager. The collection also includes rehearsal copies and souvenir editions, and theatrical ephemera such as costume and set designs and selected playbills will also be digitised as part of the project.

The Independent / Cengage Learning

The Independent, the last national quality daily paper to launch in the UK before the Internet changed everything, is the latest newspaper title to partner with a traditional information resource company for digital preservation and online subscription. The Independent Digital Archive, which went live in the Gale NewsVault in January, comprises all issues from number 1 in 1986 to the end of 2012. Site licenses to academic, public and government libraries are available by subscription or one-off purchase.

National Archives / Findmypast

Marking Holocaust Memorial Day, the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau, Findmypast have released digitised documents from the National Archives about the Kindertransport programme to save Jewish children from being sent to Nazi death camps following Kristallnacht in 1938. The collection includes 41 browseable documents include reports and correspondence from UK government offices and ministries, and an online form including a *Browse Birth / origin place* menu revealing details of children from both from Germany and as far away as Poland, Austria and the Ukraine. The Findmypast blog announcing the document release includes links to the collection, photographs and excerpts of contemporary eyewitness accounts.

NATO

NATO Archives have declassified and disclosed a range documents relating to the June 1989 Polish elections following a request by the Polish delegation to NATO in 2014 to commemorate their 25th anniversary. The documents, selected in partnership with the Archives of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and spanning 1987-1991, include reports from embassies in Europe and the US describing the changing political situation from their respective viewpoints, and the North Atlantic Council's record of Lech Walesa's 1991 NATO visit as the newly-elected president of Poland. The documents can be downloaded in a zip file from the NATO press release.

Reed Elsevier

What's in a name? Well quite a lot to Reed Elsevier apparently, who changed their name to RELX Group plc as part of a corporate restructure in February. That is all.

Society of Chief Librarians and partners

"The Society of Chief Librarians is working to create a unified digital platform for public library resources [in the UK] aimed at increasing use of libraries by existing and potential customers". Quite an announcement! Partners include the British Library, the Reading Agency, the Combined Regions, Collections Trust, OCLC and Library 21 with the first phase of the project funded by Arts Council England. BiblioCommons, a Canadian company, have been selected by public tender to, "research consumer and library sector needs and create a vision and roadmap", by the end of March. The press release cites the timeliness of the project in view of the Independent Report on Public Libraries chaired by William Sieghart, and highlights that the project will develop access for library customers to the Universal Offers for Public Libraries as identified by the SCL