Online Resource Update

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Please send your submissions for the next edition to jrc@aber.ac.uk

BFI/BBC
The BBC and BFI are partnering to preserve an estimated 100,000 of the most at risk television programmes and clips from the second half of the 20th century recorded on obsolete formats, including children’s TV (Tiswas, Basil Brush, How, Vision On, Shangalang), comedy (Do not adjust your set, At last the 1948 show) and dramas and documentaries (Nationwide, the Bandung File, Eastern Eye, Second City Firsts and Rainbow City). The BBC reports, “The BFI has budgeted £13.5m of Lottery funding towards its goal of making the UK’s entire screen heritage digitally accessible”, and the project is part of their 2017-2022 strategy.

CONUL
The National and university libraries of Ireland have announced that within two years’ time the Irish public will have access to a combined online catalogue. The Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) includes both Eire and Northern Ireland and was originally founded by seven universities and the National Library of Ireland and has since been joined by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the Royal Irish Academy, the Dublin Institute of Technology, Queen’s University Belfast and the University of Ulster. The catalogue will comprise more than 10 million items and, “bring Ireland in line with its European and US counterparts, where national catalogues are available to citizens”.

Elsevier/Jisc Collections
Elsevier and Jisc Collections have reached a 5-year opt-in pricing deal on Elsevier ScienceDirect journal bundle, the biggest deal of its kind in the UK, “granting academics access to globally-published, high-quality research at costs lower than the industry average”. No-one has forgotten the long-term, international campaign of protest about Elsevier’s high-cost bundles which has included academics boycotting the peer-review of Elsevier titles. As resource acquisitions staff in over 160 UK academic and research libraries pick over the detail, JISC have provided some Q&A in their blog including as yet incomplete negotiations towards an agreement to assist institutions implement green open access, a 10% discount on APCs (details in the blog) and an opt-out available after three years, “should a subscribing institution see a material decline in budget”. Finally, “Once those institutions that wish to have entered the agreement, Jisc Collections will publish the total spend of the sector”.

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European Commission
The European Commission’s Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) has introduced the publicly-available Migration Data Catalogue and Dynamic Data Hub to, “centralise migration related data, to better understand migration flows, trends and their impact on societies across the EU”. The Migration Data Catalogue comprises a structure of browseable datasets from member states, European institutions and other international sources and has a keyword search. The Dynamic Data Hub is intended to, “validate information, highlight limitations and put migration data into context”.

Oxford University/edX
Oxford University are launching their first MOOC which begins in February 2017 with online enrolment available now. The six week course “From Poverty to Prosperity: Understanding Economic Development” is free (with an optional certificate for $49) and no prior qualifications are required. The course is, “led by Sir Paul Collier, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government”, and delivered in partnership with the online learning service edX.

ProQuest
ProQuest have issued an apology after a post on their GradShare blog recommended the use of essay mills to students saying, “there is no shame in using the services of professionals when you are short on time”. After being widely reported, not least on social media, the post was swiftly taken down and an apology was posted by ProQuest on November 30th indicating that they hadn’t vetted the post and, “we deeply regret that it appeared in our blog”.

In happier news, ProQuest have announced their subscription Syndetics Unbound, “a new catalog enrichment service”. Syndetics Unbound comprises sixteen features derived from their prior product Syndetics Solutions and from LibraryThing such as book jackets, tables of contents, book summaries and abstracts, recommendations and author profiles, browseable tags and series information, together with visual enhancements and tools for, “rating, sharing and reviewing books”.

Wiley
Wiley have announced that it is now mandatory for researchers submitting manuscripts for publication to their ScholarOne series to supply an ORCID identifier (iD), and is the first major publisher to do so. ORCID is an initiative providing, “unique and persistent identifiers to researchers,” with 2.7 million ORCID iDs issued worldwide and 24,000 used in Wiley journal article submissions. A list of institutions already using or planning to use ORCID have signed up to their open letter.