Online

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AHDS http://ahds.ac.uk/
The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) is to lose funding from the AHRC and JISC from March 31st 2008. Following an announcement from the AHRC in May that they would cease funding for the AHDS, JISC have now announced their decision to follow suit. The AHDS have been actively supporting "the discovery, creation and preservation of digital resources in and for research, teaching and learning in the arts and humanities" for 11 years. In a response to the announcement from JISC, AHDS director Sheila Anderson indicated their commitment to finding ways to keep their digital content available, in consultation with JISC and the AHRC.

British Library http://www.bl.uk/
The British Library have made their Turning The Pages software available on licence as a toolkit for use by other libraries and museums. The 2.0 release combines the original digitising and viewing features of the software with enhanced 3D, zoom and comparison functions. Turning The Pages has been available on the British Library website since 2004, providing popular online access to rare and/or fragile items such as the Lindisfarne Gospels.

Cambridge University Press & MyiLibrary http://www.cambridge.org/
http://www.myilibrary.com/
The academic publisher Cambridge University Press are providing five collections of electronic books in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Medicine, Law, and Science and Technology subject areas, exclusively in partnership with e-content provider MyiLibrary. The 1,159 titles, dated 2005 to May 2007, are available for 30-day trial access by libraries, and the MyiLibrary platform provides full-text searching and other personalised features such as bookmarks and notes.

EBSCO http://www.epnet.com/ **& ABC-CLIO** http://www.abc-clio.com/
EBSCO have bought Historical Abstracts (HA) and America: History and Life (AHL) from ABC-CLIO. The databases are due to become available on EBSCOhost by January 2008 and will remain available at ABC-CLIO until June 2008. EBSCO intend to enhance the products with full-text services (by subscription) and will become a sales partner for ABC-CLIO. A corporate press release states that a long-term agreement consolidates the current editorial profile, and ABC-CLIO will also continue to provide content for and to prepare the printed products. EBSCO have an existing distribution partnership with ABC-CLIO, providing access to nine ABC-CLIO online database titles in world/American history and geography.

The DEPOT http://depot.edina.ac.uk/
JISC have launched a nationwide, OAI-compliant repository called the Depot at a conference held early in June. The Depot, hosted by EDINA at the University of Edinburgh, will be available to all UK researchers for the deposit of papers, articles, and book chapters and to provide re-directs to academic materials deposited at other university repositories, mainly from the UK.

Elsevier http://www.elsevier.com/ **& FAST** http://www.fastsearch.com/
Elsevier and FAST are collaborating on the provision of a new, free online service for scientists. Topic Pages, hosted on SCIRUS, comprise a summary and links to references, academic articles and other online sources on specific topics of scientific interest. Elsevier publishers currently invite authors for the pages and intend the resource to encourage new scientific communities on the web. A few Topic Pages are already available.

Google http://google.com/
Google have announced another block deal with universities in the United States to scan significant quantities of library holdings. This time the "Big 10" athletic conference (which comprises 11 universities) and the University of Chicago will provide up to 10 million books and periodicals for scanning, allowing full-text searching in Google Book Search which in turn provides bibliographic information and selections from the full text. A legal challenge to Google over plans to include selections of copyrighted texts has been brought by the Association of American Publishers and the Authors Guild. In a different move, the private Emory University in Georgia, has begun a mass digitization programme to make its holdings available online for students, with a charged print-on-demand service via Amazon.com.

OCLC WorldCat http://www.worldcat.org/
Social networking features are being made available at OCLC WorldCat, allowing users who register for their own account to assemble lists of items owned by different libraries. Lists of books, videos and other items found by searching can be public or private, and users can add their own reviews and ratings. These features expand on previous related developments at OCLC WorldCat, including an online profile for registered users, where they can record personal information such as an occupation, interests and a link to their home page.

Thomson http://www.thomson.com/
Thomson have completed the offload of their educational arm to a fund consortium for $7.75 billion. Following their announcement in October 2006, Thomson Learning and Nelson Canada have now been sold to a fund consortium comprising the private equity company Apax Partners and a Canadian pension fund OMERS. Famous brands sold in the deal include Gale, Wadsworth, Delmar Learning, Heinle, Brooks/Cole and South-Western.