

Online

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

Should we be archiving computer games? More on open access; and a BBC archive showing changing attitudes to homosexuality

BBC Archive

http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/gay_rights/

The BBC have opened a new collection of TV and radio broadcasts charting, “the changing in attitudes to homosexuality in the last 50 years”. Items include an episode of the Radio 3 programme “Third Ear” about Section 28 in 1988 with actor Ian McKellen and newspaper editor Peregrine Worsthorne taking opposite sides in the debate, and footage of the first same-sex civil partnership taking place in Belfast in 2005.

British Library

From the *Independent* newspaper: <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/british-library-hints-at-video-game-archiving-plan-2125428.htm>

In an article in the *Independent*, Paul Wheatley, a digital preservation specialist at the British Library, talked about the possibility of involving the British Library in the preservation of the 30-year UK videogame industry, in response to fears that games and related documents are being lost. He said the British Library “is keen to lend support, building on work already done by an initiative called the National Videogame Archive”. The NVA (<http://www.nationalvideogamearchive.org>) is located at the National Media Museum, and is a joint project with Nottingham Trent University, celebrating videogame culture and preserving its “ history for researchers, developers, game fans and the public”.

Electronic Theses Online

<http://ethos.bl.uk/>

EThOS (Electronic Theses Online) has been enhanced by 400 UK doctoral theses on political, cultural and social aspects of the Middle East, Islamic studies and related themes, via a collaboration between the Centre for Research Libraries (CRL), a consortium of over 250 US and Canadian research libraries, and the British Library. EThOS, administered by the British Library and based at their Boston Spa site, gathers e-theses from open-access institutional repositories and digitises theses from partner universities.

European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)

<http://www.ehri-project.eu/>

Launched on November 16th 2010, the EHRI is a major four-year project to “support the European Holocaust research community by giving them integrated online access to dispersed (archival) resources relating to the Holocaust all over Europe and Israel, and by encouraging collaborative research in multi-national research teams”. The project has received 7 million Euros of EU funding and has 20 project partners in 13 countries, including the Wiener Library Institute of Contemporary History in London, and King’s College London. Researchers will be cataloguing resources from diverse regional centres, discovering sources dispersed through migration following World War II, and translating from a range of source languages.

European Library

<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/exhibition-reading-europe/about.html>

The European Library have launched a new online exhibition of over a 1000 rare, digitised books from 23 European countries called *Reading Europe: European culture through the book*. Site visitors can browse by country, subject, language and timeline. The UK edition includes early copies of *Lorna Doone* and *Castle Rackrent*, and my random dip into the Netherlands found a wonderful illuminated version of *The (legend of) Beatrice* from 1374.

Taylor and Francis

(JISC press release:

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2010/10/podcast115grahamwalton.aspx>)

The first open-access issue of the *New Review of Academic Librarianship* has been published by Taylor and Francis in collaboration with JISC. The special issue includes papers on a business model for, and librarian attitudes to, open-access textbooks, how the research life cycle is changing libraries and the differences between different disciplines' understanding of open access. It is guest-edited by Hazel Woodward who is director of Cranfield University Press and University Librarian.

World Bank

<http://wdronline.worldbank.org>

The World Bank has launched a new online collection of all their development reports since 1978, providing data on key global trends, for example. in economic growth, international trade, agriculture and the environment. Site visitors can register for an free individual account for a range of bookmarking, sharing and alerting tools. The World Bank Data tab offers browsing by country (over 200), comparison indicators (over 1,200) including numbers of Internet and mobile phone users, and topic areas including education and aid effectiveness.

UK Open Access Implementation Group

(JISC press release: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2010/10/openaccess.aspx>)

Open Access Week (October 18th-24th 2010) saw the announcement of the UK Open Access Implementation Group. JISC have been asked to produce a project plan for the group, which aims to “coordinate evidence, policies, systems, advice and guidance, to make open access an easy choice for authors and one that benefits all universities”. Driving this new initiative are persisting fears in some sectors of the academic and research communities about giving free access to their research output. The group consists of Edinburgh and Salford universities, UUK, RLUK, SCONUL, JISC, the UK Research Councils, Wellcome Trust, the Association of Research Managers and Administrators UK, and the Public Library of Science.