

Online

Joy Cadwallader, Aberystwyth University (Aberystwyth Online User Group)

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

[British Council Film Collection](#)

The British Council has launched an online archive of more than 120 of their films made in the 1940s “to show the world how Britain lived, worked and played”, and to provide a counterpoint to cultural propaganda from Nazi Germany. Preserved by the [BFI National Archive](#), the content has been digitised and made available by [Time/Image](#) via a project which has benefitted from funding by Google. Titles include “Gardens of England”, “Women in War Time” and “Merseyside”.

Chronicle

A new project to provide 1960s and 1970s Northern Irish news and current affairs footage online has been announced by JISC, the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC) and the BBC. Chronicle will focus on the period 1963-1976 during which time content was recorded onto 16mm film which subsequently required preservation. The resulting online archive will be freely available to the academic community for teaching, learning and research. The [press release](#) contains more detail about the academic

partners who will be reviewing the project during its progress.

[Directory of Open Access Books \(DOAB\)](#)

The [OAPEN Foundation](#), the European open access collaborative service based in the National Library at the Hague, and [SemperTool](#), who developed the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), have launched the DOAB (in beta) which is a discovery service for open access scholarly book titles. There are currently around 750 books from over 20 publishers available and the DOAB are encouraging publishers to supply metadata for their open access titles. Full text links are provided to the content or host repository.

Project Barcelona

More from the BBC, this time a heads-up from Director General Mark Thompson that the BBC plans to introduce an online store for BBC

programme downloads. In [a speech to the Royal Television Society](#) he said that the plan known as Project Barcelona would need to go before the BBC Trust, UK producers would need to be on board and the current BBC digital archive would remain available.

Open Access and academic journals

In an unprecedented few months in the world of academic journal publishing, open access is taking centre stage. The [Cost of Knowledge](#) boycott site where academics can openly record their refusal to publish in, or referee or do editorial work for, Elsevier journals has more than 12,000 entries. David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science, [has said](#) “we will make publicly funded research accessible free of charge to readers”. [Research Councils UK](#) published their “[Proposed Policy on Access to Research Outputs](#)” which supports publisher embargoes for publicly funded research no longer than six months (or 12 months if funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council or the Economic & Social Research Council). The Publishers Association and the Association of Learned, Professional and Society Publishers (ALPSP) published their commissioned [report](#) on “the potential effect of making journals free after a six month embargo”, which outlined their concern that “libraries would cancel 65% of AHSS and 44% of STM journal subscriptions”. The much-awaited report from the Working Group on Expanding Access chaired by Dame Janet Finch is due to report very soon.

In the US the Research Works Act has retreated following a storm of criticism including a [letter of](#)

[protest from 90 research institutions](#). The Federal Research Public Access Act ([FRPAA](#)), which supports open access for federally-funded research, has been re-introduced to Congress. However in their own [withdrawal of support for the Research Works Act](#) Elsevier indicated that they do not support open access for federally-funded research. Meanwhile, in a widely-reported [memo](#), Harvard University’s Faculty Advisory Council has joined the growing number of scholarly institutions and individuals finding increasing subscription costs unacceptable.

[Royal Philatelic Society London \(RPSL\)](#)

The [Global Philatelic Library](#), “a centralised gateway to the greatest philatelic research in existence”, has been launched by the RPSL, Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum & Smithsonian Libraries and the American Philatelic Research Library. The gateway displays links to major catalogues at the founder institutions. The RPSL has made pre-existing digitisations of major pre-1923 periodicals freely available. Further online content is available via “membership programmes and other avenues”. More project partners are listed on the home page and more information is available through press releases at the RPSL Web site.

Royal Society Picture Library

See the Royal Society Picture Library online, [introduced in April](#), where images from the Royal

Society portraiture, archives and 16th-19th published plates collection can be searched and previewed. Images can be licensed for a fee, and the website says that arrangements can be made for free access for academic study and teaching.

[Vatican and Bodleian libraries](#)

Thanks to a £2 million donation from the Polonsky Foundation, the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (BAV) and the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford are embarking on a four-year collaborative project to digitise 1.5 million pages from their collections of ancient texts and make them freely available to all. Subject areas include early printed books (incunabula) and Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. Scholars are to benefit from combined online access to the two collections.

Meanwhile the Bodleian have [announced](#) their first-crowd-sourcing project, by asking for descriptions of 4,000 pieces of piano music scores from the mid-Victorian period that have been digitised and made freely available online. Voluntary contributors need only complete a short online form. The Bodleian also hope that the project will encourage “performances of this

music and hopes to provide links to audio or video recordings”.

World War One

Twenty-five European partners, including the Imperial War Museum, have begun a project to archive 650 hours of World War One film footage to be made freely available via [Europeana](#) and the [European Film Gateway](#). Launched at the German Film Museum in Frankfurt, the content will comprise both factual newsreel, documentary and footage as well as fictional films, and is intended to be complete for the anniversary of the start of WWI in 2014. Find out more about the project partners and content at the [project website](#).

Closer to home the National Library of Wales, Welsh universities, BBC Cymru Wales and the Archive & Records Council Wales (ARCW) have received £500,000 match-funding from JISC to digitise Welsh archives and special collections to tell the “story of the impact of the Great War, and the War Effort, on nationhood and society in Wales”. There are more details in this [press release](#) about the sources to be digitised.