

## Online Resource Update

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### British Library / Heritage Lottery Fund

In a [press release](#) the [British Library](#) have announced their plans to digitise, “500,000 rare, unique and at-risk sound recordings from its own archive and other key collections around the country,” following a successful [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) (HLF) bid for over nine and a half million pounds. The sound recordings will be rescued from a variety of fragile formats including wax cylinders and acetate discs, and the content will be made freely available online. British Library sound holdings include authors reading their own work (Tennyson, Plath and Joyce), Radio Luxembourg broadcasts, slang dialects and accents from the 1950’s Survey of English Dialects, and sounds of wildlife. The HLF money will also support the development of a network of regional centres of archival excellence and a school and community outreach programme to raise awareness of sound archives.

### Elsevier

More conflict between the academic community and Elsevier, this time over Elsevier’s new hosting and sharing policy [announced](#) on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), supported by 23 co-signing organisations including Research Libraries UK (RLUK), have asked Elsevier to reconsider the policy because it, “represents a significant obstacle to the dissemination and use of research knowledge, and creates unnecessary barriers for Elsevier published authors in complying with funders’ open access policies”. In their [statement](#) they oppose over-long embargos for some journals (up to 2 years), over-restrictive licenses on articles uploaded to open access (OA) repositories, and the planned retrospective application of the policy. Elsevier’s [response](#) on May 21<sup>st</sup> was followed up by COAR on May 28<sup>th</sup> with [specific recommendations](#) to free authors to, “make their ‘author’s accepted manuscript’ openly available upon acceptance through an OA repository or other open access platform”, to choose the type of open license they want and to not be dictated to regarding individual sharing of journal articles which they describe as, “a scholarly norm”. Watch this space!

### Jisc / Spare Rib / British Library

It may have been all over the traditional press but I had to include the full run of the feminist magazine Spare Rib 1972-1993 going online, thanks to the British Library collaborating with the original Spare Rib community and [Jisc](#). In the days before the Internet and social media became the place to campaign, there were posters, pamphlets and magazines and [here is Spare Rib freely available](#) on the Jisc Journal Archives site. It is going to be a fascinating read; the Jisc [press release](#) mentions, “big-name contributors

including Betty Friedan, Germaine Greer, Margaret Drabble and Alice Walker, but alongside these were the voices of ordinary women telling their own stories”, and a sample of articles about offensive advertising, sex lives, FGM and body hair - plus ça change. Spare Rib worker Sue Sullivan is quoted, “The digitised magazines will be a wonderful resource for younger historians and feminist activists, researchers and all the women (and men) who wonder what their mothers, aunts, grannies and older friends got up to all those years ago.”

#### **National Library of Scotland / ProQuest**

UK House of Lords papers from the nineteenth century are to be digitised and made available online in a collaboration between the [National Library of Scotland](#) (NLS) which holds one of the rare surviving sets of approx. 3,000 volumes and [ProQuest](#) whose online resource catalogue already includes the House the Commons parliamentary papers from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The NLS [press release](#) announces that NLS members will have free online access to the House of Lords content while ProQuest will offer online access on a commercial basis. Scotland’s National Librarian Dr John Scally notes that, “More British Prime Ministers served in the Lords in the 19th century than in the House of Commons”, and researchers will be able to explore the changes made to by the Lords to bills before they were passed and the bills that were rejected.

#### **ProQuest**

In [more news from ProQuest](#), they have taken over Coutts Information Services (which includes MyiLibrary and OASIS) from the [Ingram Content Group](#). [InfoDocket notes](#) that it was only in February this year that EBSCO took over YBP Library Services, two big players in the information market building on their academic book/e-book supply profiles.

#### **UK Supreme Court**

The [UK Supreme Court](#) has launched a trial on-demand online archive of past hearings. Their [press release](#) points out the educational value to lawyers and law students as well as the potential to reduce transcription costs. Footage of court proceedings will be uploaded on the next working day and, “Once judgment is delivered, footage of the Justices’ summary in court will also be published alongside the full judgment text and press summary”. The on-demand service is scheduled to be reviewed in March 2016. The Supreme Court has had live streaming from its 3 courtrooms since October 2014, during which time 15,000 people have used it each month.