Slide 1

DIGITAL RESOURCES, CRITICAL MASS AND HOMICIDE

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Slide 2

The Murder of Jean Alexander

News sheet, from Edinburgh Nov 14, 1807 – from John Johnson Ephemera Collection

Morning Chronicle, London, 19 Nov 1807 – from BL Newspapers

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Slide 3

What research sources has JISC made available?

- Mass Digitisation Programme – 22 projects, £22m, 2004-9
  - 18th-Century Parliamentary Papers
  - Welsh and Irish Journal Digitisation
- Enriching Digital Resources – 25 projects, £1.8m, 2008-9
  - E.g. Clustering Anglo-Saxon resources
  - Digitising Sudan map collection
- Licensing work by JISC Collections
  - Early English Books Online
  - Eighteenth Century Collections Online
- Add this to other funders' work
  - http://web.me.com/xcia0069/uk-digitisation.html

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Slide 4

What is the impact of this digitisation?

Study of 19th-Century Britain
- British Library Newspapers
- Research Libraries UK project – 1m pamphlets
- Electoral Data in Vision of Britain
- John Johnson Collection of Ephemera
- Old Bailey Proceedings
- 19th-Century Serial Editions
- Nineteenth-Century House of Commons Parliamentary Papers
- Nineteenth-Century UK Periodicals Online
- Microsoft Digitisation
- Google Books!

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Slide 5

What is the impact of this digitisation?

- 20th Century – despite copyright
  - National Archives Cabinet Papers
  - NewsFilm Online
  - Archival Sound Recordings
  - Independent Radio News recordings
  - Welsh and Irish Journals
  - Freeze Frame Polar Images
  - Electoral Data

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Slide 6

What is the impact of this digitisation?

- Possible changes in research
  - Retiring scholars see their work cast aside – or maybe reaffirmed?
  - Doctoral students have a whole new landscape to explore
  - Previously aesthetic readings become more historicist
  - Need to refine questions because of greater amount of evidence
  - Will there be a increased need for sampling?
  - Or will macro-history become easier?
  - Study of language emphasised; linguistic interpretations to the fore
  - What is the impact of sound and vision (as compared to text)?
- Add all these changes together, and what will happen?
  - Usual slow drip of sources becomes a deluge

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What is the impact of this digitisation?

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- Plenty of fields of study not covered by digitisation
- Plenty of resources are under used
- Plenty of resources are not sustainable
- Resources are spread all over the place

- How does this effect JISC plans and future funding in this area? Currently an area open for discussion
- Less funding for digitisation per se

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1) Data Mining / International

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- Digging into Data Challenge established with international funding bodies
- To promote international, innovative research work with large humanities orientated data-sets
- The internet is global – continuing collaboration with National Endowment for Humanities

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2) Improving Usage

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- Continuing 'Enriching Digital Resources'
- Responding to the Lariah and Bristol reports
- Improving metadata / usability / marketing of digital resources
  - Isaac Newton on YouTube, Stained Glass Web 2.0
- Assisting their take up in research and teaching

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3) Clustering

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- The silo cliché remains true – too many resources in too many areas
- Impact on front end – users have to go to multiple places to find related items
  - Need for strategic thinking about how content overlap
  - Medieval Stained Glass; Church Plans Online; Funerary Monuments of Sussex; Vision of Britain
  - What kind of framework would help answer urgent intellectual questions?
  - Building a framework which respects the granular
- Impact on back end – more difficult to sustain multiple technical infrastructures

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4) More Content

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- UK special collections are still largely untapped
- Arguing for further digital content creation
  - Meeting and advancing research and teaching needs
  - Bringing collections out of the dark
  - Stimulating the economy, underpinning competitiveness and developing skills
  - Reaching out and building communities

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