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Research Council

ICT in Arts and Humanities Research

E-research on Texts and Images

British Academy

12 May 2010

***‘Data resources, sustainability and
infrastructure***



Digital outputs funded by AHRC panels: Technical Appendix

- Resource Enhancement scheme: 90%+
- Standard Research Grants: now 40%+
- c. 600 grants overall with digital outputs
- 400+ serious digital resources

What the AHDS did

- advice: applicants + panels
- preservation

What the Technical Appendix did



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Strongest system of support for e-arts and humanities in the world

AHRC ICT in Arts and Humanities Research Programme

- £3.8m for 5 years 2003-8
- support services and resource development
- to complement existing provision
- focus on methods and technology development
 - and on advanced users



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...until closure of AHDS (end March 2008)

- end of ICT Programme (end December 2008)
- AHRC no longer invests in infrastructure
 - position of JISC



Why do we need an e-infrastructure?

- knowledge and community infrastructure

Issues for data creation projects:

- visibility and impact
- preservation and sustainability
 - standards and best practices
 - Institutional repositories...
- usability and re-usability

Issues for methodology and technology development projects



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ICT Programme:

- ICT Methods Network: £1m for 3 years from April 2005
 - use of advanced ICT methods
- Projects and methods database (with support from JISC)
 - part of a unified on-line resource: ICTGuides
- ICT Strategy Projects (£1m)
 - knowledge-gathering: needs, uses, scoping surveys
 - resource-development
- AHRC-EPSRC-JISC Arts and Humanities e-Science Initiative



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AHRC- EPSRC -JISC Arts and Humanities e-Science Initiative

- Scoping survey (Sheila Anderson)
- JISC A&H e-Science Support Centre (King's: 2006-10)
 - based in AHDS
 - project facilitation and support
 - knowledge base
- AHRC A&H e-Science Research Workshops
- EPSRC e-Science demonstrators
- ...



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AHRC- EPSRC -JISC Arts and Humanities e-Science Initiative

- ...
- six 4-year AHRC e-Science postgraduate studentships.
- AHRC-JISC e-Science research projects (£2m)
 - responsive mode: wide range of subjects, methods and technologies
 - varying emphasis on development and research findings



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Sustainability of development projects

- Plan A: AHDS as platform
- Plan B: virtual support
 - arts-humanities.net at King's Centre for e-Research
- Plan C?