

## Newsletter, Millennium Edition

### EDITORIAL

When the AHDS was founded, the early emphasis of the service was on accession and preservation of electronic resources that resulted from or supported research. Since 1997 the number of partnerships and data deposits has increased, and the service can now begin to plan for re-use in research and also increasingly for the purposes of learning and teaching. The AHDS hopes to work in tandem with the new Resource Discovery Network hubs and the Learning and Teaching Support Network centres to achieve this goal. The current JISC 5/99 call for proposals to develop the Distributed National Electronic Resource (DNER) for learning and teaching provides exciting opportunities for the AHDS and others to expand further the relevance of their work for learners and teachers. This special edition of the newsletter aims to showcase some examples of resources available from each of the AHDS service providers, firstly to illustrate some of the exciting material which has been accessioned over the last two years and secondly to demonstrate how these resources may be used by teachers and learners.

Another important development has been the establishment of the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB). Supplementary funding to the AHDS for the current academic year from the AHRB means that the service has been able to do more to support research and researchers in the arts and humanities. Seven posts have been created across the service. New acquisition officers will be appointed to four of the service providers. Two new posts at the Executive will develop the Information and Training Programme, with respect to Resource Awareness and Case Studies. A final post will be taken by a systems manager to develop interoperability among the AHDS' on-line catalogues.



### VADS collaborates with the Imperial War Museum.

*C.R.W. Nevinson's 1917 "A Group of Soldiers" is just one of the many images in VADS first online digital collection, the Imperial War Museum Concise Art Collection. See page 6 for details. (Picture courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, London)*

### *In this AHDS Newsletter ...*

- Editorial 1
- Resources for Teaching and Learning
  - Archaeology Data Service 2
  - History Data Service 3
  - Oxford Text Archive 4
  - Performing Arts Data Service 5
  - Visual Arts Data Service 6
- New Projects at the AHDS 7
- New AHDS Staff 7
- AHDS Contacts 8

## **DAPPER – The World’s First Digital Archaeological Excavation Archive**

Modern archaeological excavations create huge amounts of digital information. Whether it is the on-site recording of the archaeology, specialist databases created during post-excavation or the publication of standard interpretative maps and plans, digital information has the potential to be created at every stage from assessment to publication. Within the discipline there has been an increasing awareness that this vulnerable data is as much a part of the primary site archive as the artefacts and paper records that have traditionally found their way into museum stores. Yet until comparatively recently there has been no secure home for such information and digital data simply languished in the proverbial ‘desk draws’ of their creators.

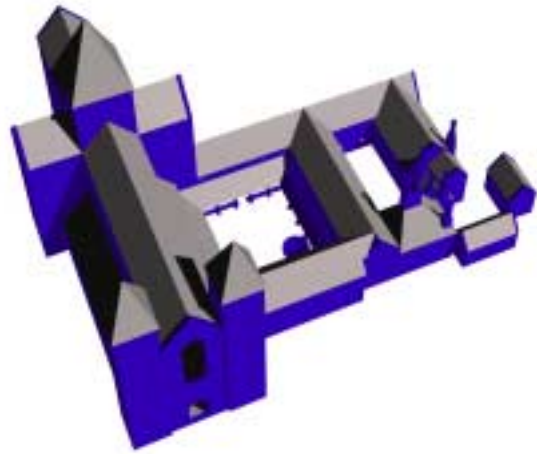
With the establishment of the Archaeology Data Service in October 1996 the archaeological community was made more aware of the need for digital archiving. Discussions with English Heritage suggested that there was scope for collaboration in the development of digital archiving policy and best practice for archaeology. This reflects English Heritage’s position as a key funding agency and its ability to encourage grant recipients to follow best practice in preparing archives for post-excavation deposition.

The resulting English Heritage funded Digital Archiving Pilot Project for Excavation Records (DAPPER) aimed to prove the concept of digital excavation archives. The pilot project sought to encourage the re-use of these digital repositories and to explore the use of the Internet to enhance access to archaeological data. Consequently DAPPER also investigated ways to deliver the data to a potential re-user community via the Internet and in the process set up the world’s first digital excavation archive.

After a lengthy consultation period two reasonably large and ‘high profile’ excavations were identified as most suitable: the Royal Opera House by the Museum of London Archaeology Service and Eynsham Abbey by the Oxford Archaeological Unit.

Between 1989 and 1992 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) excavated part of the medieval abbey, revealing part of the cloister and south ranges, kitchens and

domestic buildings. Evidence for earlier activity included the 11<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon abbey and earlier Minster, and a Bronze Age enclosure. The project was never designed as an exercise in digital data collection or management, but rapid changes in computer technology in the last five years meant that the project developed in this direction.



*A CAD reconstruction of Eynsham Abbey*

Following exploratory work in 1995, full-scale excavations were undertaken in 1996 by MoLAS at the site of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, Greater London. The excavation examined the largest area of the Saxon trading port of Lundenwic so far to become available and has provided a wealth of information on the form and economy of this settlement. All data from the site was collected in computer-based formats, using a state-of-the-art integrated database and Geographical Information System (GIS) recording system. The on-line archive is currently incomplete but contains GIS files, interpretive groupings and data files consisting of context, artefact and ecofact attribute sets. The rest of the archive will become available following publication of the site, which is projected for March 2000, and will be deposited with the ADS as part of an extension to the current project.

Dapper has not only proven the viability of the digital archiving of excavation records, but has also demonstrated their re-use potential. Five universities have already written DAPPER into their teaching materials at different points in the curriculum. Yet, the lesson for us all from DAPPER was that the next generation of archaeologists really is more computer literate than the present generation. The same exercise was presented to a group of

undergraduate students, and to a select group of professional archaeologists. Whereas the latter were taxed by the exercise, the undergraduate students evaluating the project completed it in less time than the people who put the exercise together! ■

---

## Exploring the History Data Service Collection for Learning and Teaching

Each of the resources in the History Data Service results from or supports historical research, learning and teaching, and the collection is particularly strong in British nineteenth- and twentieth-century economic and social history. While many of these studies can be utilised for research purposes, a number of them are particularly suited to the needs of students and teaching academics.

An interesting recent addition to the History Data Service collection is *Modernity and Multi-Storey Living*.<sup>1</sup> This data collection was developed to investigate the role of apartment housing in the social geography of two Canadian cities - Toronto and Winnipeg - in the period 1900 - 1939, in the context of debates about 'spaces of modernity' in nineteenth- and twentieth-century cities. The database includes data on the buildings themselves, their owners and tenants, and the residents of nearby houses. The tabular dataset, which includes information on the occupations, sex, age and incomes of the apartments' residents, is complimented by a series of digitised plans and photographs of the buildings. The principal aim of the study was to provide a readily accessible computerised resource for use by secondary analysts interested in twentieth-century urban society and the data is accompanied by full documentation. This well designed data collection allows students to explore an example of the raw materials of historical investigation.

While data collections such as *Modernity and Multi-Storey Living* can be used to

---

<sup>1</sup> Dennis, R., *Modernity and Multi-Storey Living : Apartment Tenants in Canadian Cities, 1900-1939* [computer database]. Colchester, Essex: The Data Archive [distributor], 1999. SN: 3975.

illustrate and involve students with important issues in historical debate, others can be used to introduce students to some of the methodological issues that arise when using and interpreting historical sources. A data collection which could be used for this purpose is *Gloucester Port Books, 1575 - 1765*. This study is based on the Exchequer Port Books, a unique and invaluable source for studying coastal trade from the late sixteenth to the early eighteenth century. They record in detail the movement of boats that passed on coastal voyages between domestic ports, naming operators and vessels involved in the trade and describing the cargoes carried. The Gloucester Port Books database describes some two million discrete entities of information relating to the movement, organisation and operation of goods traded via the sea. This is a complex but fascinating data collection which provides an excellent example of how to organise and manage a large historical source. It also offers an admirable model of the concepts and techniques involved in creating historical databases.

Undoubtedly, however, the History Data Service collection of historical censuses provides the most scope for learning and teaching. It includes two major collections of aggregate-level demographic data - the *Great Britain Historical Database*<sup>2</sup> (available on-line at <http://hds.essex.ac.uk/gbh.stm>) and the *Database of Irish Historical Statistics*<sup>3</sup> as well as around 40 individual level local area studies.<sup>4</sup> Arguably, the most important data collections are a transcription of a national sample from the 1851 census enumerators' books for Great Britain<sup>5</sup>, totalling some 400

---

<sup>2</sup> Southall, H.R., Gilbert, D.R., Gregory, I., *Great Britain Historical Database, 1841-1939* [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: The Data Archive [distributor], 1998. SN: 33288.

<sup>3</sup> Clarkson, L.A. et al., *Database of Irish Historical Statistics, 1821-1971* [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: The Data Archive [distributor], 1997. SN: 33276.

<sup>4</sup> Use the BIRON catalogue (<http://biron.essex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/biron>) to search for the subject keywords " census enumerators' books".

<sup>5</sup> Anderson, M. et al., *National Sample from the 1851 Census of Great Britain* [computer file].

thousand records, and a transcription of the 1881 census enumerators' books for England, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man, totalling a massive 26 million records.<sup>6</sup> These datasets have enormous potential for learning and teaching. Individual and aggregate level demographic data from the censuses are widely used and offer students the chance to explore themes such as family, migration, and economic structure through the analysis of raw historical sources. ■

-----  
-

### Reading Wilfred: The Oxford Text Archive

The Oxford Text Archive holds an extensive range of textual resources, including a great many literary works. One particularly interesting example is an electronic edition of the *Collected Poems* of Wilfred Owen, published in 1920 - soon after the poet's death. The text contains a collection of his war poems, other and more minor poems, fragments and juvenilia. The poems have been tagged in SGML TEI-Lite, which provides users with the opportunity to perform simple, boolean, and proximity searches on the text from the OTA website. It is possible to download the text in a variety of formats to suit a range of teaching and learning situations. For example HTML can be read via any web-browser, RTF incorporated into most common word-processing packages, whilst ASCII and SGML are best-suited to particular kinds of literary, linguistic, or textual analyses.

While this is a valuable resource on its own, it becomes even more fruitful when examined in conjunction with the newly deposited, award-winning, World War I *Virtual Seminars for Teaching Literature* created by Dr. Stuart Lee and Paul Groves. The *Virtual Seminar* is made up of three primary resources: "The Seminars", which provide introductions to WWI poetry, manuscript studies and text analysis; "The Wilfred Owen Multimedia Archive", which contains all of Owen's war

poetry manuscripts, photographs, letters, video, interviews with war veterans, etc.; and "Publications of the War", which includes such resources as a complete run of *The Hydra*, propaganda pamphlets, newspapers, and postcards. The *Virtual Seminars for Teaching Literature* has been deposited as a complete, zipped file and will be distributed as such.

A significant benefit afforded by this resource is access to materials that would not normally be available to the student or scholar. The poetry is normally examined in its print form, perhaps a first edition but most likely a modern publication. The combination of the 1920 *Collected Poems* and the source materials in the Multimedia Archive allow the user to view many versions of the text, thereby providing for a more complex evaluation of the work.



*The Virtual Seminar allows users to compare printed and manuscript version of "Dulce et Decorum Est"*

An example of one of the more interesting scholastic possibilities is to perform a juxtaposition of the texts found in both The Wilfred Owen Multimedia Archive and *Collected Poems*, as is demonstrated in the accompanying figure, and analyse the variations. Taking *Dulce et Decorum Est* as an illustration, the foremost screen in the figure is an image of the text as can be found in *Collected Poems*. The lower screen shows an image of the British Library manuscript 43720, folio 21a version of the poem – this is just one of the four manuscript versions offered by the Multimedia Archive. The comparison of the texts produces interesting results. The poems first alterations can be seen in line four where "the trudge" becomes

Colchester, Essex: The Data Archive [distributor], 1979. SN: 1316.

<sup>6</sup> Genealogical Society of Utah and Federation of Family History Societies, *1881 Census for England and Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man* [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: The Data Archive [distributor], 1997. SN: 3643.

“to trudge”, and line five where the manuscript exemplifies Owen’s struggle to imbue his poem with precise language. For those not concerned by the minutiae of “to” and “the”, line eight of the poem renders more marked changes, as the OTA’s published version of the line reflects text that has been modified in the manuscript. Further study of the other available manuscript images illustrates how each object conveys a different form of the poem – forms that are not replicated in the printed objects.

The *Virtual Seminar* can be reached at <http://info.ox.ac.uk/jtap/> ■

---

### **New Resources at the PADS**

#### *The Imagination/Universities Network Pilot Project*

The PADS is pleased to announce that the findings of the Imagination Universities Network Pilot Project are now fully available from:

<http://www.pads.ahds.ac.uk/padsDRLCollection>

During 1998 and 1999, PADS was actively involved in this significant national initiative concerned with researching and developing the dissemination of moving image resources over computer networks to users in UK Higher Education. The project was initiated by the British Film Institute (BFI), the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC) and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the UK Higher Education Funding Councils and reflects the strong desire of these public bodies to provide effective online delivery of moving image materials and to address the technical, legal, archival and organisational challenges presented by this aspiration.

The PADS was one of two 'proof of concept' pilot sites chosen to demonstrate on-line delivery of high-quality, full-screen moving image resources. Over 30 hours of material (including television documentaries, dramas and current affairs programming from the BBC and the ITV networks dating back to the 1950s as well as resources from Canal+ to commemorate the centenary of the birth

of Alfred Hitchcock) were fully digitised and catalogued.

The materials were served to users during a number of high-profile events including the Digital Resources in the Humanities Conference and were used in teaching exercises. The specialist Hitchcock material has proved particularly useful as it offers the potential for comparative teaching that is otherwise extremely difficult to present to students. Clips of various versions of Hitchcock's first 'talkie' - *Blackmail* - are presented along with the dialogue script and other supporting materials to allow students to compare the different approaches used by the director and provide a unique insight into the early days of cinema.

#### *Scottish Film and Television Archive Catalogue*

The PADS is preparing the catalogue of the Scottish Film and Television Archive for on-line access shortly. Once online, the 4,000 records will be fully searchable and substantially updated every 6-months as the Archive makes progress with its Heritage Lottery funded retrospective cataloguing project. The PADS has approached a number of other film archives in the UK with the aim of creating a union catalogue of holdings that will revolutionise teaching and research in this area. ■



*Picture of Alfred Hitchcock courtesy of Canal+*

## VADS finishes the year in "Fighting Form"

This year VADS accessioned its first major digital image collection, the Imperial War Museum Art Collection, which was launched in April 1999. VADS has now grown considerably as an image repository, and currently has 25,000 images from 13 different collections committed to delivery in 1999-2000.

The Imperial War Museum Collection was therefore a flagship for VADS and represented a key development for the service. The image from the VADS/IWM collection on the front page by C.R.W. Nevinson is particularly topical this year, as the Imperial War Museum is currently holding a Nevinson Exhibition: *C.R.W. Nevinson: the Twentieth Century* (showing until 30<sup>th</sup> January 2000). This is the most comprehensive exhibition of his works ever mounted. The VADS collection has 15 other works by Nevinson, which can be viewed at [http://vads.ahds.ac.uk/vads\\_catalogue/av-index.html](http://vads.ahds.ac.uk/vads_catalogue/av-index.html). This digital collection comprises 2,000 images in total, which is only a small proportion of the art works and posters held by the Museum over all. The remainder of the collection is not yet digitised, though forward planning for further digitisation is currently taking place.

VADS' other future image collections are a diverse range of resources that have great potential for use by higher education for research, learning, and teaching purposes. They are:- Going Graphic – V&A digital posters; The Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi pilot digitisation; the London College of Fashion Archive; the Museum Collection of Central St Martins College of Art & Design; the African and Asian Visual Arts Archive; the Spellman Collection of pictorial Music Covers; Suffragette Banners from the Fawcett Library; images from the Bodleian's John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera; two collections from the National Art Education Archive at Bretton Hall; and two collections central to the history of British design from 1945 - one from the Design Council Slide Collection at Manchester Metropolitan University, and the other from the Design Council Archive based at the University of Brighton. These ten latter collections were created as part of JIDI (the JISC Image

Digitisation Initiative) the results of which VADS has been commissioned by the JISC to deliver as part of the new *VIS: JISC Virtual Image Service*.

As well as the great opportunity presented to VADS by the ability to make so many exciting and stimulating collections available on-line for the first time, we are also inspired by the prospect of how our users will benefit from the cross-collection searching to be implemented for all our holdings. We hope that this will open up a new world of thematic searching, and promote new methods of scholarly analysis, not only of the collections themselves but also of the scholarly contexts in which they are embedded.

### PICTIVA (Promoting Image Content In the Visual Arts)

By the cunning use of an acronym program recommended by colleagues at the Institute for Image Data Research at the University of Northumbria, VADS has christened its new two year project as above. We have been commissioned by the JISC to work from with the owners of our forthcoming image collections and the Institute for Image Data Research to produce learning and teaching packages and selection and display tools to facilitate an active use of digital images in learning and teaching contexts. This project is inspired by the notion that while researchers may have the incentive to tap new electronic resources, those who are occupied with the demands of teaching students or rapidly learning new subjects may not have sufficient awareness of the rich rewards of using existing electronic resources. Thus PICTIVA aims to exemplify usage by illustrating how digital image collections have a direct relevance to learning and teaching needs, and also to provide tools at an interface level which will hopefully make usage a more pleasant and less daunting experience. ■

---

### New Projects at the AHDS

Additional funding from the JISC and the AHRB has allowed the Executive to undertake two new projects. The first project - following on from the success of the pilot *Resource Guide for the Social Sciences* (<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/subject/socsci>) - is to create a guide to promote online services and resources in the Arts and Humanities.

Working in collaboration with resource providers, the project will focus on creating and disseminating a resources guide and developing a programme of events aimed at raising awareness within regional and specialist communities.

The Executive's second new post is for Case Studies. This will involve the composition and publication of various reviews on the benefits and problems of creating and delivering digital archives, with reference to the many resources already deposited in the AHDS. For further information about the Resource Guide contact <[liz.lewis@ahds.ac.uk](mailto:liz.lewis@ahds.ac.uk)>. Concerning the Case Studies contact <[alastair.dunning@ahds.ac.uk](mailto:alastair.dunning@ahds.ac.uk)>.



---

### New AHDS Staff

**Polly Christie** joins the VADS as Data Management Officer (0.5 fte). Polly's main work will be mounting the image collections arising from JIDI projects. Polly has a background in library and information work and is currently studying Electronic Communication and Publishing at University College.

**Jo Clarke** joins the ADS as Curatorial Officer. She will be involved in cataloguing and curating digital archives, and in developing ArchSearch. Jo has recently been awarded an MSc in Archaeological Information Systems at the University of York.

**Alastair Dunning**, previously working on the RDN Launch and Publicity, joins the AHDS Executive as Information and Training Officer (Case Studies). Apologies to the RDN for poaching such a valuable staff member!

**Cordelia Hall** has joined PADS as the new Technical Officer (0.5 fte), with particular responsibility for the development of the PADS Hyperwave database. Cordelia has a master's degree in music performance and a Ph.D. in computing science, both from Indiana University. She has been involved in research and lecturing at the University of Glasgow Computing Science Department since 1990.

**Louise Heath** is now working full time as the AHDS Executive Project Administrator. The AHDS Executive is pleased that Louise will now stay with us until at least July 2000.

**Maggie Jones** joins the AHDS Executive as principal research officer for the LIC study on digital preservation. The appointment is for one year and the project will conclude in July 2000. Prior to returning to the UK and taking up this appointment, Maggie was Director of Collection

Management and Retrieval Services in the National Library of Australia.

**William Kilbride** joins the ADS as User Services Manager. His new role involves developing a helpdesk service and promoting the use of ADS resources through workshops and conferences. William is currently completing a Ph.D. at the University of Glasgow on the Archaeology of Religious Conversion in 7<sup>th</sup> century England.

**Liz Lewis** joins the Executive as Information and Training Officer for Resource Awareness. Liz was formerly Project Co-ordinator of the eLib project NewsAgent, and researcher at the Library Information Technology Centre.

**John McHugh** joins PADS as the new Online Services Officer. John is a graduate of the MSc Information Technology graduate programme at the University of Glasgow and has been working for the past year at Barclays PLC IT Support.

---

--

### Contacting the AHDS Executive

King's College London  
75-79 York Road, 8th Floor  
LONDON  
SE1 7AW

<<http://ahds.ac.uk>>  
[info@ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@ahds.ac.uk)  
Tel: 020 7928 7411

### Contacting the Service Providers

Archaeology Data Service  
<<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>>  
[info@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@ads.ahds.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01904 433 954

History Data Service  
<<http://hds.essex.ac.uk>>  
[info@hds.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@hds.ahds.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01206 872 326

Oxford Text Archive  
<<http://ota.ahds.ac.uk>>  
[info@ota.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@ota.ahds.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01865 273 238

Performing Arts Data Service  
<<http://pads.ahds.ac.uk>>  
[info@pads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@pads.ahds.ac.uk)  
Tel: 0141 330 4357 / 3810

Visual Arts Data Service  
<<http://vads.ahds.ac.uk>>  
[info@vads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@vads.ahds.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01252 892 723/4



## AHDS Guides to Good Practice

now available in paperback!

### ● GIS Guide to Good Practice

edited by Mark Gillings and Alicia Wise

### ● Archiving Aerial Photography and Remote Sensing Data: a Guide to Good Practice

Robert Bewley, Danny Donoghue, Vince Gaffney, Martijn van Leusen and Alicia Wise

### ● Digitising History: A Guide to Creating Digital Resources from Historical Documents

Sean Townsend, Cressida Chappell and Oscar Struijvé

*The ADS and the History Data Service are pleased to announce that three volumes of the AHDS Guide to Good Practice Series have now appeared in print, published by Oxbow Books at a price of £10.00 per copy*

*Write to Oxbow Books for more information:*

Oxbow Books  
Park End Place  
Oxford OX1 1HN

or order by eMail: [oxbow@oxbowbooks.com](mailto:oxbow@oxbowbooks.com)

Details of all AHDS Guides can be found on the web at: [<http://ahds.ac.uk/public/guides.html>](http://ahds.ac.uk/public/guides.html)

The Arts  
and Humanities Data Service  
is funded jointly by the



and the

A · H · R · B  
arts and humanities research board

### The AHDS Newsletter

The printed version of the newsletter is published yearly. Further details of recent AHDS activities can be found in the latest electronic version of the Newsletter, which is produced tri-annually ([<http://ahds.ac.uk/public/news13\\_2.html>](http://ahds.ac.uk/public/news13_2.html)).

The electronic version covers:

- AHDS Partnerships and Projects
- Systems Developments
- Recent and Forthcoming Acquisitions
- Highlights from Workshops and Conferences
- Publications
- AHDS Staff Changes