University of St Andrews | FOUNDED 1413

How are archival services in Scottish research libraries meeting the challenge of digital archives?

John MacColl, University Librarian & Director of Library Services, University of St Andrews

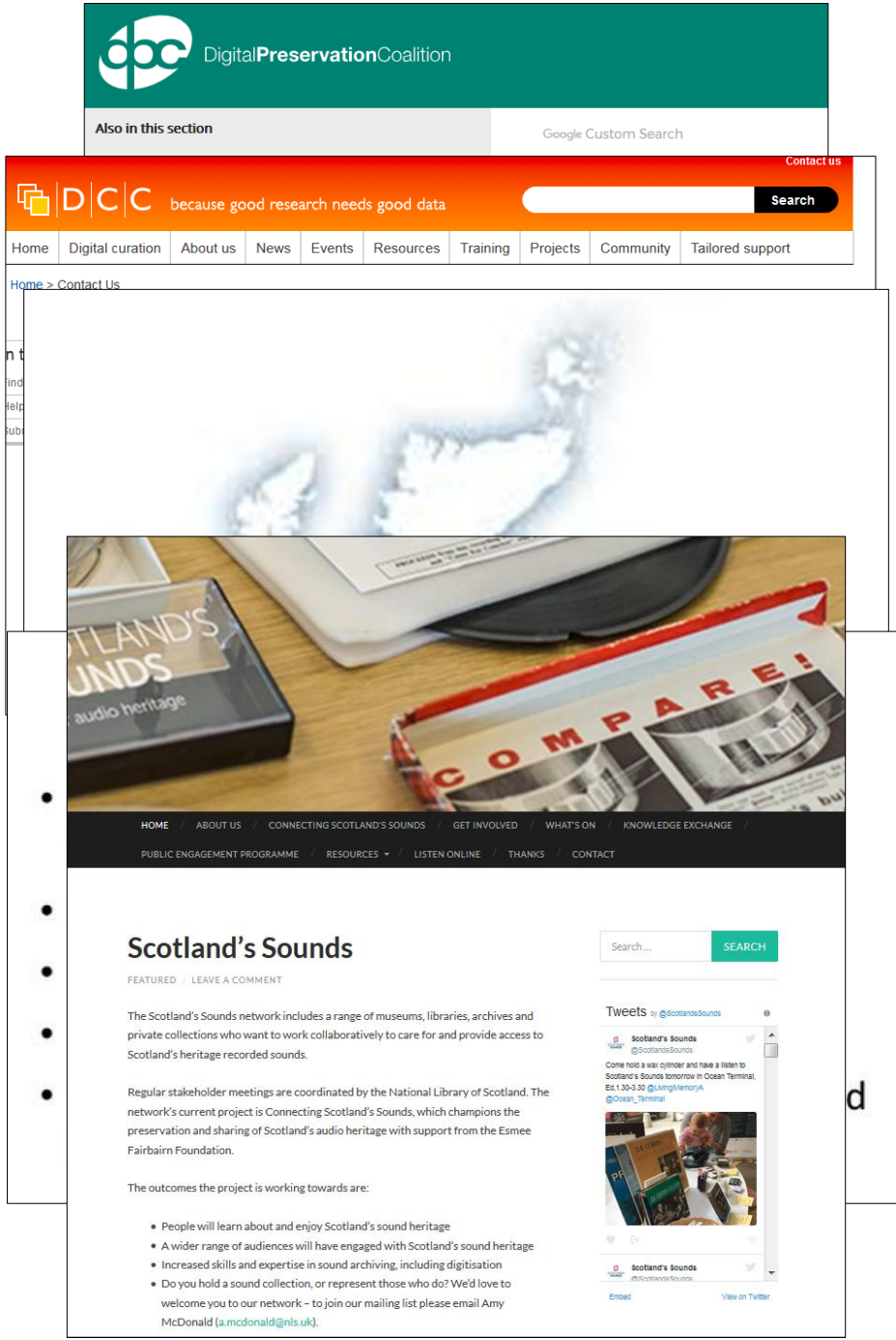
LIBER Forum for Digital Cultural Heritage

Patras, 5 July 2017

University Library

Who is doing what?

- Digital Preservation Coalition (University of Glasgow)
- Digital Curation Centre (University of Edinburgh)
- Ancient university libraries and archives
  - St Andrews
  - Glasgow
  - Aberdeen
  - Edinburgh
- National Records of Scotland: digital output of Scottish government
- ‘Skills for the Future’ programme (Scottish Council on Archives & The National Archives)
- ‘Scotland’s Sounds’ (National Library of Scotland)



Who is doing what?

- Jisc Research Data Shared Service project
  - Arkivum Archivematica – Edinburgh
  - Archivematica vs Preservica (St Andrews)

Platforms

Lot 1 - Research Data Repositories (4)

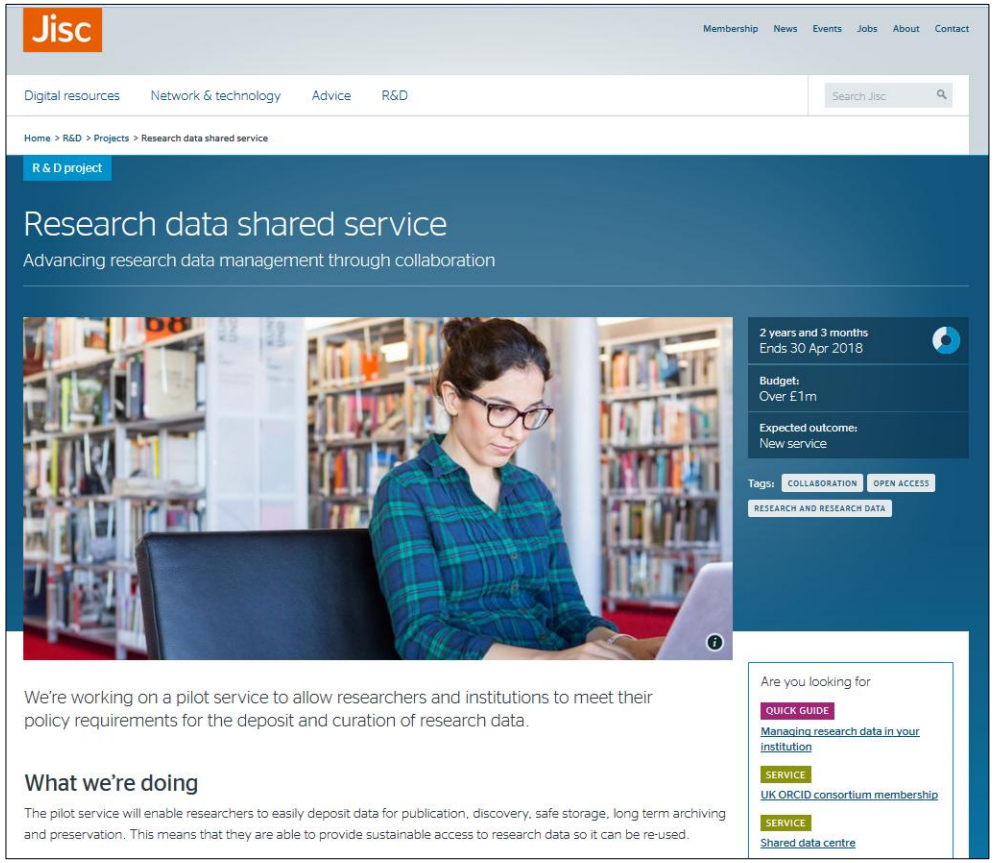
Discoverygarden – Islandora (open source, based on Fedora)
Figshare (proprietary, hosted)
Haplo (based on RIM system used at Westminster, open source)
Sero - Hydra (open source, based on Fedora)

Lot 5 -Research Data Preservation Platforms (2)

Arkivum – Archivematica (open source preservation platform)
Preservica – (propreitary, hosted or licenced)

Lot 7 - Research Data Reporting (2)

Connexica – CXAIR (proprietary, hosted)
Sero – Edges (Also used by Jisc Monitor)



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Who is doing what?

- DPC digital preservation infrastructure for Wales

- Rest of UK
  - Parliamentary Archives
  - British Library
  - Wellcome Library

- St Andrews (for example)
  - Literary archives
  - University Principal papers (‘muniments’)

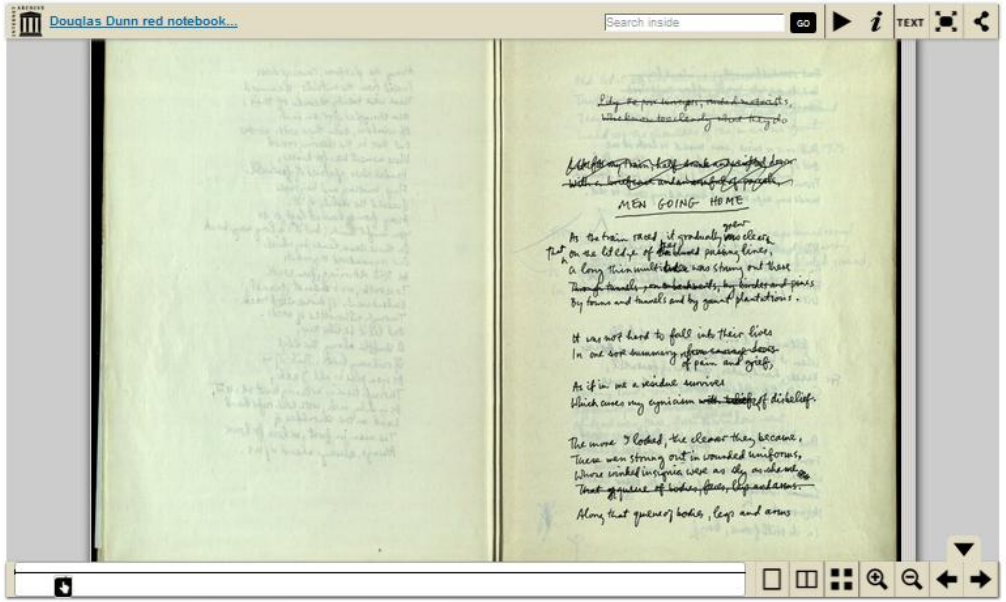


Poets at St Andrews



Douglas Dunn





- Catalogue Entry: View the Archive Catalogue record for this item.
- Shelf Location: ms38640/2/41



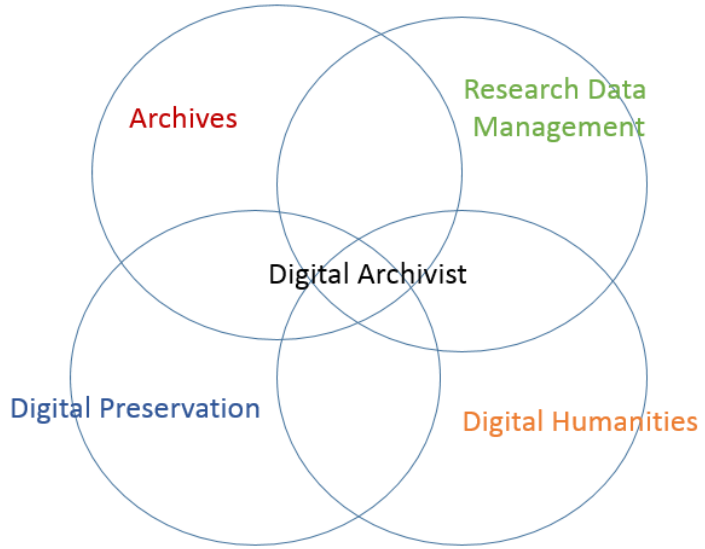
Don Paterson



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Issues

- Literary archives in digital form: problem of valuation
- What is the ‘professional home’ of the digital archivist?
  - Archives associations?
  - Digital humanities?
  - Research data management?
  - Digital preservation community?
- Can be more difficult to select files to make available from a digital archive (eg email): ‘embargo the whole deposit’
- Significance assessment: RLUK; UNESCO/PERSIST Guidelines for the selection of digital heritage for long-term preservation

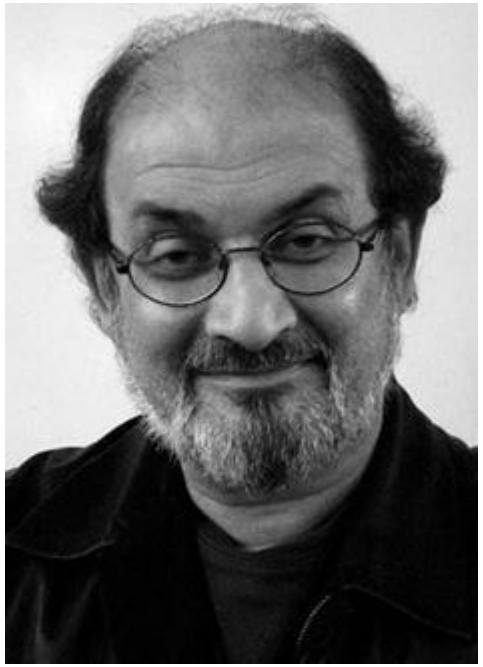


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Issues

- Archiving the digital environment (eg Emory emulated Rushdie's own computer)
- Robust contracts needed
- Authors selling to highest bidders
- Getting archivists with the right skills
- Young archivists turning their back on the digital
- Less hybridity now than 10 years ago





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Thank you!

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