Digitisation of Cultural Heritage

Today’s Innovations
And
Tomorrow’s Promise

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• Important developments online and on-phone
• How new technologies are enabling new opportunities for digital cultural heritage
• How long-established digitisation problems may be more tractable.
Users are increasingly comfortable generating content (wikipedia, facebook, twitter, pinterest, flickr, instagram, youtube, waze...).
• Users represent a new and powerful source of information about our cultural heritage.
• Commenting on, and connecting, collection items.
User Content - more than pictures

- New collections. New services. User powered.

historypin.com
Griffith’s Valuation

The Primary Valuation was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland. It was overseen by Richard Griffith and published between 1847 and 1864. It is one of the most important surviving 19th century genealogical sources.

**Family Name Search**  **Place Name Search**  **Name Books Search**  **Search Tips**  **Upload**  **About GV Maps**  **Read More**

Use this form to search for a particular family name in Griffith’s Valuation.

**Step 1 - Mandatory**

First, enter a family name (and a first name, if you wish)

- **sheridan**

- Include similar names

**Step 2 - Optional**

Then choose a county, and (optionally) a Barony, Poor Law Union, and/or Parish

- **patrick**
- **MAYO**
- **Barony**
- **Union**
- **ROBEEN**

For a more powerful placename search, and to find everyone who lived in a particular place, use the **Place Name Search** option.
User Contributions

You can now upload your own information, photos, audios and videos to the details of each Griffith’s Valuation record. Please click the grey upload button to start your own upload.

Below, you can see material uploaded by other users of the site.

Sheridan Family Home

This is the cottage where my grandfather, John J Sheridan, son of Patrick Sheridan, was born in 1870.
• Excellent map resource.
• Exemplar of what can be achieved without loss of IP.
Websites are for people. **Linked Open Data** lets computers combine online databases by giving *meaning* to words.

LOD links massive data sets across the web – for free.
Linked Open Data and Digital Cultural Heritage

- This is a small part of the LOD cloud.
- Using Linked data we can add **lots** of information relevant to our cultural material. For free.

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (29 September 1571 – 18 July 1610) was an Italian artist active in Rome, Naples, Malta, and Sicily between 1593 and 1610......
What about social media?

- Social media IS user-generated content.
- Social media mainly used for profile raising and marketing, but communities centred around...
"Rain Room" opens today! Leave your umbrella at home! Part of EXPO 1: New York.  

["Rain Room." Random International. 2012. Photo courtesy of the artist]
Smartphone developments

GPS ‘knows’ where you are; the compass knows what way you’re looking. The app ‘tells’ the cloud-based service, which sends something to the screen of your phone.

- Maps,
- Game elements
- Tourism/cultural information

museumoflondon.org.uk
• From camera to app to cloud...to screen
  – Google goggles, recognize.im, IQEngines...
Camera snaps code, app sends to cloud, data sent

- Relative less expensive than custom image recognition
Augmented Reality

- Camera, GPS and image recognition trigger data feed.
- A layer of extra data, controlled by the user.

NGA Experience
‘Marker’ recognition triggers data feed.
Screen shows reality, augmented
• Camera and display on head, wifi/bluetooth to phone for GPS, apps & data. Issues around privacy, safety…but…
Games – the cutting edge?

- Games are free to suspend reality, and to experiment without the need to be consistent with reality.
What is the impact for digital cultural heritage?
Long term challenges

- Images with no metadata
- Content without context
- Flawed language impedes search and other services
- User Fatigue

She alsoe saith That vizt about July 1642 the said the ffarrells and their soouldjers in the night tyme secretly killd some few ould men and some sick soouldjers,
• OCR gives us letters ➔ data.
• Image recognition to generate metadata for digitised photos.
• Uses Rijksmuseum API and Face.com API.
• Extracts the faces from artworks.
Photos with no descriptions?

About: Arthur Griffith
An Entity of Type: agent, from Named Graph: http://dbpedia.org, within Data Space: dbpedia.org

Arthur Griffith (Irish: Art Ó Gríobhtha; 31 March 1872 – 12 August 1922) was an Irish politician and writer, who founded and later led the political party Sinn Féin. He served as President of Dáil Éireann from January to August 1922, and was head of the Irish delegation at the negotiations in London that produced the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, attending with Michael Collins.
Who else is in the first Dáil?

WT Cosgrave, for one.
• Automating the identification of key places and person.
• And how they relate to each other.
And about the same tyme the eldest daughter of Tho: Crogen of the Callough was drowned, & fourtwoe more nere starved for want of meat and clothes
And with all she told her that shee herself was to have bin murthered but escaped
And this deponent further saith that she hath beene divers tymes told both by the Irish themselues

And about the same time the eldest daughter of Thomas Crogen of the Callough was drowned, & four two more near starved for want of meat and clothes
And with all she told her that she herself was to have been murdered but escaped
And this deponent further says that she has been divers times told both by the Irish themselves

• Alternative spellings, variations, dubious punctuation.
• Sample from 1641 depositions.
Visitor Fatigue

- Better in-house information can be cheaply delivered via the web or in an app.
- Games and Augmented Reality can bring the material to life and engage the user.
- Maps tie the old and the current together and encourage a sense of relevance.
- Strong social networks help to maintain interest, discussion and support.
Thank you for your attention

User content & social media matter

Maps are everywhere.

Look at the potential of linked open data

Look out for augmented reality.

Try goggles and G+

Play games

www.cultura-project.eu/1641/
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