RAISING THE CURTAIN

or: getting unique and rare collections out to the public

Director.........................................................Claire Knowles
Producer.........................................................Scott Renton

Shot entirely on location at the The University of Edinburgh

Museum Computer Group – May MMXV
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SYNOPSIS

• Making the most of existing assets
• Innovation through evolution
• Repetition with a twist
• Engagement with communities
• Enrichment through the crowd community
• Creating a franchise?
SETTING THE SCENE

Academic Research Library, Special Collections, Rare Books, Archives, Musical Instruments Museums, Natural History, Cockburn Geological Museum, Anatomical Collection, Art Collection ...
PREVIOUSLY....

• Museum collections were:
  – Catalogued using a Collections Management System (Vernon)
  – Limited or no online collection
  – Experience of using online repositories for research papers

• Collections Online
  – Four collections launched May 2014
  – Ongoing process, eight live collections
  – Six more in development/test
LEADING LIGHT

http://collections.ed.ac.uk
TRIPLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD.

Sistero Boccoli

Instrument
Harpsichord

Instrument Family
Keyboard

Maker
Sistero Boccoli

Date Made
1627

Description
Technical description: Triple-manual harpsichord. Case construction: Compass 52-note sets of strings, 2 x 61, 1 x 44 (g). Originally a single-manual harpsichord to C with two natural keyboards in D (b) and E (g), and then with a fourth manual. Converted by inserting three keyboards: Leo Paul (ca. 1630). A.N. Passion's instrument in 1913.

Notes

Measurements
1777.

Provenance
Purchased by Raymond Russell (1913); ex-L. Francisci, Florence, 1934.

Collection
MIMEd: Raymond Russell Collection

Accession Number
4304

Download Image(s)

Triple-manual harpsichord.
Abstract bird plate (c. 1920 - 30s)  
Emma Gillies: Rediscovered  Emma Smith Gillies

Small incised dish (c. 1920 - 30s)  
Emma Gillies: Rediscovered  Emma Smith Gillies

Hunting scene plate (c. 1920 - 30s)  
Emma Gillies: Rediscovered  Emma Smith Gillies

Highland hunters plate (c. 1920 - 30s)  
Emma Gillies: Rediscovered  Emma Smith Gillies

Art Deco vase (c. 1920 - 30s)  
Emma Gillies: Rediscovered  Emma Smith Gillies

https://exhibitions.ed.ac.uk
These iconic items are the most beautiful, important and unique treasures in the University's collections. Some, like the Rashid al-Din manuscript, are known across the world. Others, like Clement Lilii's charter which founded the Library, are key to the story of our collections. Some choices may surprise you! View All
STORY BOARDS

• Reproducible process
• Using existing metadata, images and media
• Open Source technologies
• Link to high-resolution images
• Working closely with curatorial staff
• Harvestable e.g. Europeana
• Big step forward . . . but . . .
Not easy to find items/objects

Variations in quantity of metadata

Limitations:
- Resources
- Time
- Money

Sir Isaac Newton diagrams in David Gregory manuscripts, approximately 1692
SPECIAL EFFECTS

- Part 1: Getting the collections online
- Part 2: Enrichment of the collections
  - Greater interaction with the content
  - Greater engagement through the collections
  - Crowdsourcing of tags?

http://librarylabs.ed.ac.uk
BEHIND THE CURTAIN

- Developed HTML/PHP web application
- Initially a tool for DIU to add metadata then interns, then volunteers, then staff and students, then online communities, then local community

Say what you see?
Hello Claire, you currently have 3 points!

Scunthorpe II: Mardi Barrie

Enter tags here- e.g. flag; tiger; hat

Submit tags and get new image

If you enter more than one person, object or place, please separate with a semi-colon. Points only awarded for correctly spelled words.
TESTING, TESTING

- 6 sessions for staff and students
- ‘Pop Up Library’
- Incentivized with coffee and lollipops
- 10 minutes work per person
- 4652 tags in 6 sessions
Staff and students tagging in the Main Library
POST-PRODUCTION

- Moderation Module
- Users VOTE on other tags
- Nothing is deemed acceptable below agreed threshold
- Tag acceptance is an ongoing process
  - > 10% ready for upload
  - 772 unique tags added to collections.ed.ac.uk
ON LOCATION

• Took tagging to students across campus - Innovative Learning Week
• Three different settings
• More of a ‘game’
• 1007 Art images added to games
• Featured artworks on show
• Prizes
• Another 3728 tags!!
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ACTION!

- Library Labs goes live for the public
- Tiltfactor metadata games in Dartmouth College, NH, USA
- 9398 tags gathered
- Not moderated - fed back into our game for moderation and voting

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How To Play

- Describe the image as accurately as you can.
- Use commas to separate phrases or individual words.
- Hit enter or click Ohm when done.

Click on the image to see a full-screen version.

Welcome Guest

This game's score 0 Points

Turn 1 / 4

Don't know anything about this image? Pass to see the next image.

PASS

http://www.metadatagames.org
THE DENOUEMENT

• Tags need to be returned to host systems
• Collections: Iconics, Exhibitions, Art (first pass)
• Shown as public-sourced (non-academic)
• Filtering: 1) Stop words 2) Swear words 3) Curator’s choices
• Vernon CMS for Art
• LUNA API to follow
Reverse Reserve (1975)

Gordon Mitchell

Artist

Title

Date

Period

Material

Type

Collection

Accession Number

Zoomable Image(s)

Tags: Seascape, Sea, Fish Tank, Island

Add more tags at Library Labs Games

BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS
David Gregory (1659-1708), astronomer and mathematician, was the first university professor to teach astronomy using the new Newtonian language. He corresponded with Newton and consequently his genuine papers include...
META\nDATA\nGAMES

HELP US DESCRIBE OUR IMAGES

Hello Claire, you currently have 0 points:

Diagrams: Newton, Isaac

Enter tags here—e.g. flag; tiger; hat

Submit tags and get new image

If you enter more than one person, object or place, please separate with a semi-colon. Points only awarded for correctly spelled words.
THE FRANCHISE

• More games:
  – Research Zone- more complex: translation, transcription (different audience)
  – Paleography game
  – Non Library Collections content

• Tagging in the community
  – Central Library, Edinburgh
  – Social Media
A NEW WAVE?

• We have our platform and our data
• Innovation in collections should become standard part of our work
• Investigating interactive tools for our collections:
  – iziTravel app
  – iBeacons
  – St Cecilia’s Hall refurbishment apps
  – Exhibitions apps
  – Horizon 2020
  – Google Glass (or other AR tools)
CREDITS

• Thanks to colleagues at the University of Edinburgh, Library and University Collections and Tiltfactor, Dartmouth College.

• http://collections.ed.ac.uk
• http://librarylabs.ed.ac.uk
• https://github.com/UoEMainLibrary
• http://www.metadatagames.org
• http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/popuplibrary/

• Email Library Digital Development Team at: lddt@mlist.is.ed.ac.uk

ANY QUESTIONS?