KAPTUR - visual arts research data in UK Higher Education and Research

The Visual Arts Data Service (VADS), a research centre of the University for the Creative Arts, has been awarded funding from the JISC Managing Research Data programme 2011 for the KAPTUR project (3rd October 2011 - 29th March 2013).

Building upon the work undertaken by the Digital Curation Centre (DCC), and previous JISC Managing Research Data projects such as Project CAiRO and JISC Incremental, KAPTUR will bring together the Glasgow School of Art; Goldsmiths, University of London; University for the Creative Arts; and the University of the Arts London, to discover, create and pilot a sectoral model of best practice in the management of research data in the visual arts.

The project team will start by investigating the nature and scope of research data in the visual arts. The variety and complexity of research outputs in the arts is well documented through work undertaken by the JISC funded Kultur (2007 - 2009); Kultivate (2010 - 2011) and eNova (2011) projects. It is anticipated that the curation and management of distinctive and varied research data in the arts will be as complex as managing the research outputs themselves.

Research data is a valuable resource and, with appropriate curation and management, it has much to offer learning, teaching, research, and knowledge transfer and consultancy activities in the visual arts. Currently, very little is known about the curation and management of this data: none of the specialist arts institutions have research data management policies or infrastructure in place and evidence suggests that practice is ad hoc, left to individual researchers and teams without support or guidance.

To address the lack of awareness and usage of research data management systems in the arts, the KAPTUR project seeks: to investigate the current state of the management of research data in the arts; to develop a model of best practice applicable to both specialist arts institutions and arts departments in multidisciplinary institutions; and to apply, test and embed the model with the four institutional partners.

1 VADS: the online resource for visual arts over 120,000 images free for educational use. http://www.vads.ac.uk/
2 One of Europe’s leading arts and design institutions, the University for the Creative Arts builds on a proud tradition of creative arts education spanning 150 years. Our campuses at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester are home to more than 7,000 students from more than 70 countries studying on courses in art, design, architecture, media and communications. http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/
3 JISC (historically known as the Joint Information Systems Committee) inspires UK colleges and universities in the innovative use of digital technologies, helping to maintain the UK’s position as a global leader in education. http://www.jisc.ac.uk/
4 JISC Managing Research Data programme http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/mrd.aspx
5 The KAPTUR project website: http://vads.ac.uk/kaptur/ and blog: https://kaptur.wordpress.com/
6 Digital Curation Centre (DCC), the UK’s leading centre of expertise in the field of data curation. http://www.dcc.ac.uk/
7 Project CAiRO (Curating Artistic Research Output) http://www.projectcairo.org/
8 JISC Incremental http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/preservation/incremental/
9 The Glasgow School of Art, internationally recognised as one of Europe’s foremost university-level institutions for creative education and research, and ranked as the second largest art and design research community in the UK Research Assessment Exercise 2008. [http://www.gsa.ac.uk](http://www.gsa.ac.uk)

10 Goldsmiths, University of London, is ranked 9th in the UK for world-leading 4* research, and a member of the prestigious 1994 Group of research-intensive institutions. [http://www.gold.ac.uk](http://www.gold.ac.uk)

11 A world-leading university for arts, design and communication, six distinctive and distinguished Colleges make up the University of the Arts London: Camberwell College of Arts; Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design; Chelsea College of Art and Design; London College of Communication; London College of Fashion; and Wimbledon College of Art. [http://www.arts.ac.uk](http://www.arts.ac.uk)

12 Kultur was a JISC-funded project (2007-2009) which created a model of an institutional repository for use in the creative and applied arts. The project partners were the University of Southampton, University of the Arts London, University for the Creative Arts, and the Visual Arts Data Service. Leiden University was an associate partner. [http://kultur.eprints.org/](http://kultur.eprints.org/)

13 Kultivate has been funded under the JISC Information Environment Programme: Deposit of research outputs and exposing digital content for education and research. Strand A: Deposit. [http://www.vads.ac.uk/kultur2group/projects/kultivate/](http://www.vads.ac.uk/kultur2group/projects/kultivate/)

14 eNova has been funded under the JISC Repositories: Take-up and Embedding programme [http://vads.ac.uk/kultur2group/projects/enova/index.html](http://vads.ac.uk/kultur2group/projects/enova/index.html)