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PEDARE 2013 : 12TH SEPTEMBER : FALMOUTH

INTRODUCING RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT IN THE VISUAL ARTS

Introducing Research Data Management

SESSION OUTLINE

- Introductions

- KAPTUR

- What is research data in the visual arts?

- Why manage research data?

- The finale: AHRC Technical Summary and Plan

Introductions

VISUAL ARTS DATA SERVICE

- Established in 1996

- National repository for images and metadata: 120,000 items; 300 collections; range of learning and teaching resources; focuses on the visual arts; free for educational use

- Research centre of the university in 2008

- Led and worked on a number of publicly funded projects within the field of digital asset management in the arts

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PARTNERS

- Visual Arts Data Service

- Glasgow School of Art

- Goldsmiths, University of London

- University of the Arts London

- University for the Creative Arts

- Jisc

KAPTUR

BACKGROUND

- Research outputs are varied and complex in the visual arts

- Little is known about the state of research data in the visual arts

- None of the specialist arts institutions have research data management policies or infrastructure

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OBJECTIVES

- To investigate the nature of research data in the visual arts

- To consider the application of technology to support collection, discoverability, usage and preservation of research data in the area

- To review appropriate policies, procedures and systems within the four partner institutions

- To develop case studies and showcase good practice to the wider higher education sector

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STRUCTURE

- Environmental analysis

- Policy formation

- User requirement, systems evaluation and piloting

- Capacity building

Infrastructure

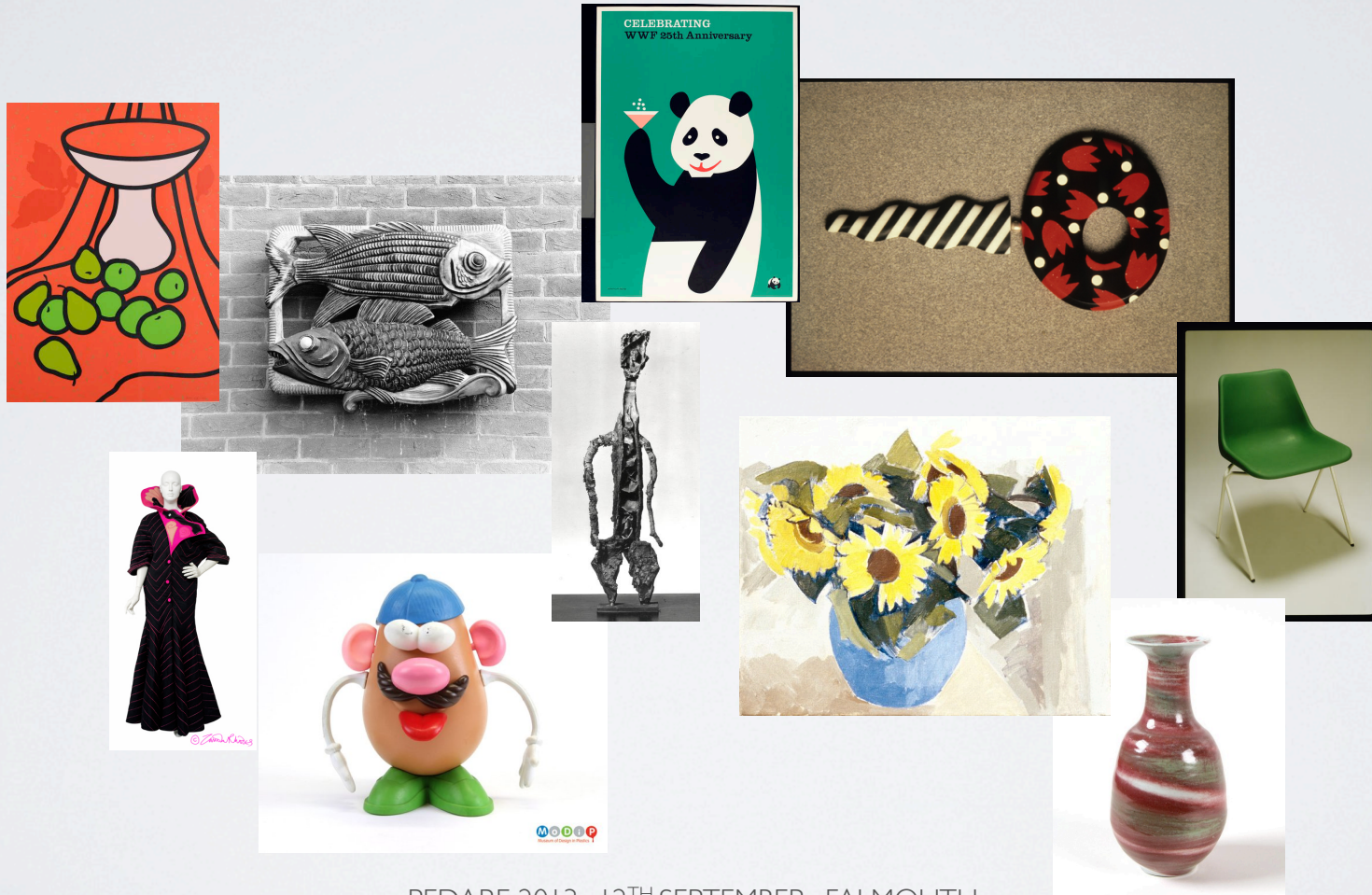ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OUTCOMES

- Challenges
  - Collecting
  - Managing
  - Reusing
  - Preservation

- Researchers agree
  - Research data is important
  - They want to share their research data
  - They want to document their research process but do not use any particular standard or methodology

Exercise One

WHAT IS RESEARCH DATA IN THE VISUAL ARTS?

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WHAT IS RESEARCH DATA IN THE VISUAL ARTS?

Tangible
and intangible

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WHAT IS RESEARCH DATA IN THE VISUAL ARTS?

Physical
and digital

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WHAT IS RESEARCH DATA IN THE VISUAL ARTS?

Heterogeneous and infinite

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WHAT IS RESEARCH DATA IN THE VISUAL ARTS?

Complex
and complicated

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WHAT IS RESEARCH DATA IN THE VISUAL ARTS?

"Evidence which is used or created to generate new knowledge and interpretations. 'Evidence' may be intersubjective or subjective; physical or emotional; persistent or ephemeral; personal or public; explicit or tacit; and is consciously referenced by the researcher at some point during the course of their research. As part of the research process, research data may be collated in a structured way to create a dataset to substantiate a particular interpretation, analysis or argument. A dataset may or may not lead to a research output, which regardless of method of presentation, is a planned public statement of new knowledge or interpretation."

Garrett, L. (2013) Defining Research Data in the Visual Arts Online at: http://kaptur.wordpress.com/2013/01/23/what-is-visual-arts-research-data-revisited (retrieved 18 June 2013)

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Why manage research data?

BENEFITS

- The production of research data is extremely time consuming and therefore costly, its lack of discoverability and potential loss is, at best, inefficient.

- It enables researchers and semantic web tools to make new links between isolated and previously undiscoverable datasets more easily.

- Enables researchers to track the publication of data and outputs more easily, which would enable them to assess the wider impact of their research more accurately.

Why manage research data?

BENEFITS

- Sharing data would extend collaborative opportunities between researchers and teams working on similar and related datasets to create new research opportunities.

- Open access to research data and new collaborative opportunities would facilitate new methods, knowledge and interpretations.

- Researchers will be able to test reliability and validity of research data, its outputs and method of generation and to offer new interpretations and further areas for investigation.
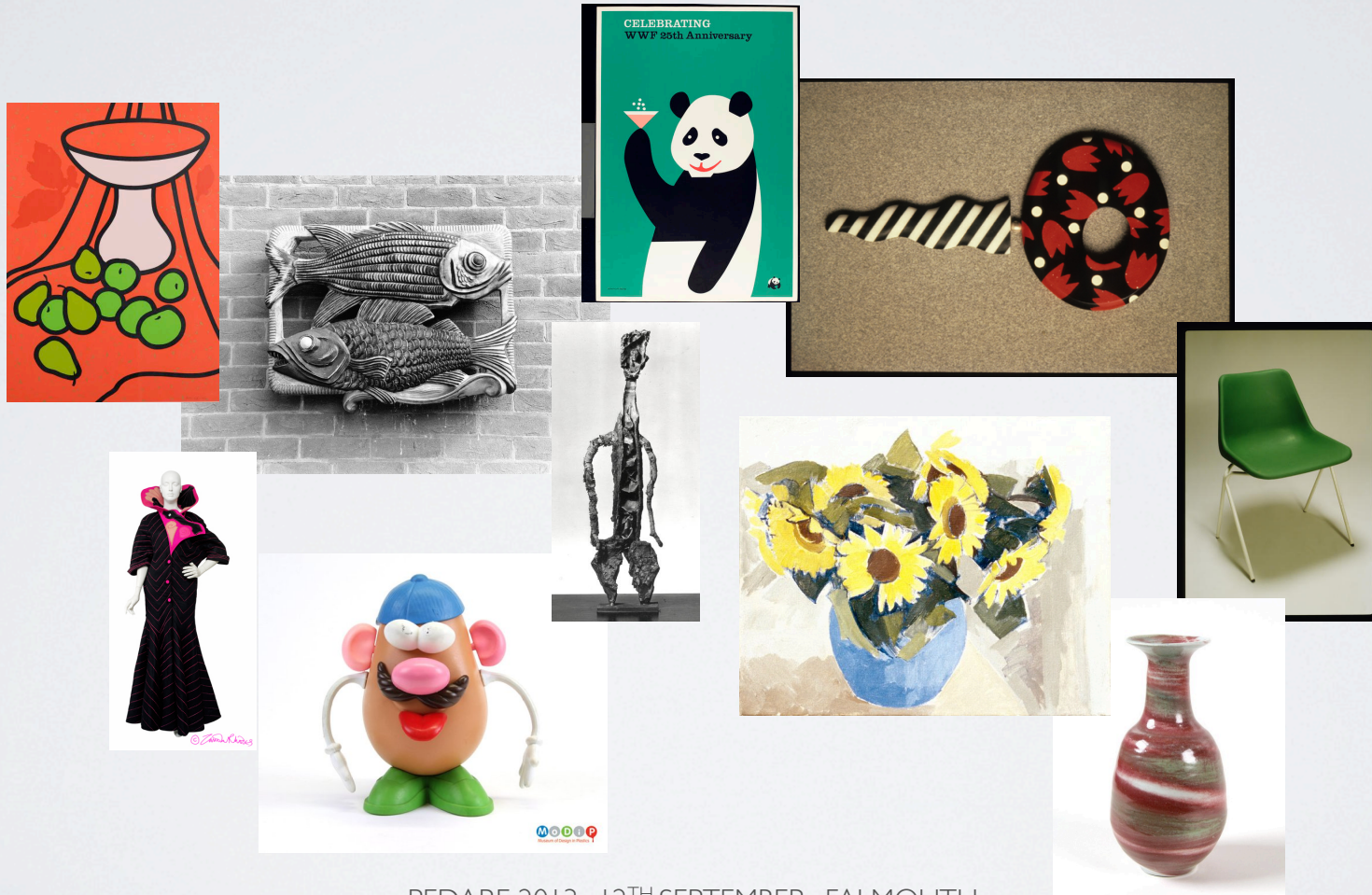
Why manage research data?

BENEFITS

- Government and funder requirements, all research councils now require the appropriate management of research data.

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Exercise Two

MANAGING YOUR RESEARCH DATA

Exercise Two

MANAGING YOUR RESEARCH DATA

- What data will be created?

- Who will benefit from this data?

- How will this data be stored?

- How long will this data be kept for?

- Any issues with publishing data?

The finale...

AHRC TECHNICAL SUMMARY AND PLAN

Technical Summary (section within Case for Support)
A brief description of the projects proposed digital outputs and/or digital technologies.

Technical Plan (up to 4 A4 pages)
Section 1: Summary of digital outputs and digital technologies

Section 2: Technical methodology
    2a: Standards and formats
    2b: Hardware and software
    2c: Data acquisition, processing, analysis and use

Section 3: Technical support and relevant experience

Section 4: Preservation, sustainability and use
    4a: Preserving data
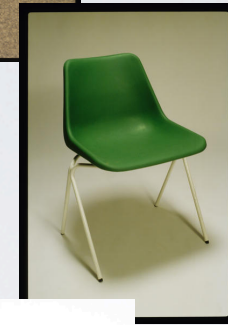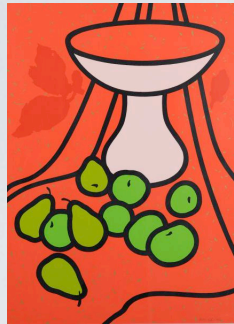   4b: Ensuring continued access and use of you digital outputs

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IMAGE CREDITS

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- Rhodes, Z. (1981). The Renaissance/Gold Collection. Zandra Rhodes Digital Study Collection. Online at: http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=200470

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