KAPTUR

exploring the nature of visual arts research data and its effective management

Leigh Garrett and Marie-Therese Gramstadt
Visual Arts Data Service, University for the Creative Arts

EVA London 2012, 10 July, British Computer Society
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Introductions

Learning Outcomes

Project Overview

The Nature of Visual Arts Research Data

Documentation Example

Project Direction

References

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Visual Arts Data Service (VADS)

> established 1997
> national repository for images in higher education
> over 120,000 images
> around 300 collections
> additional educational resources
> research and consultancy services

vads
the online resource for visual arts
www.vads.ac.uk
Learning Outcomes

> appreciate the context and rational for the project
> understand the method used during the project
> recognise the diversity and complex nature of visual arts research data
KAPTUR

http://vads.ac.uk/kaptur/

managing visual arts research data with four institutional partners:

Background
- recognition of the enormous value of research data

Objectives
- investigate the nature of research data in the visual arts
- consider the application of technology to support collection, disseminating, usage, and preservation of research data in the area
- establish appropriate policies, procedures and systems within the four partner institutions
- provide case studies and showcase good practice to the wider higher education sector

Method
- environmental analysis
- user requirements, systems evaluation and piloting
- policy formation
- tools and training materials
- dissemination

Anticipated Outcomes
- models of good practice developed within the four partner institutions
- application for more widely across the sector, particularly when working with complex multimedia objects
Background

recognition of the enormous value of research data:

> validation
> value
> funding requirements

research data management practice in the arts is ad hoc, none of the specialist arts institutions have research data management policies, procedures or systems

Part of the queue of people outside the Victoria & Albert Museum in London to visit the 'Britain Can Make It' Exhibition in 1946.

© Design Council and the University of Brighton Design Archives.

http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=81010
Objectives

> investigate the nature of research data in the visual arts

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

> establish appropriate policies, procedures and systems within the four partner institutions

> provide case studies and showcase good practice to the wider higher education sector
Method
> environmental analysis
> user requirement, systems evaluation and piloting
> policy formation
> toolkits and training materials
> dissemination

Anticipated Outcomes
> model of good practice developed within the four partner institutions

> application for reuse more widely across the sector, particularly when working within complex multimedia objects
KAPTUR

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managing visual arts research data with four institutional partners:

**Background**
- Recognition of the enormous value of research data
  - Validation
  - Value
  - Funding requirements
- Research data management practice in the arts is ad hoc, none of the specialist arts institutions have research data management policies, standards or systems

**Objectives**
- Investigate the nature of research data in the visual arts
- Consider the application of technology to support collection, dissemination, usage and preservation of research data in the area
- Establish appropriate policies, procedures and systems within the four partner institutions
- Produce case studies and showcase good practice to the wider higher education sector

**Method**
- Environmental analysis
- User requirement, systems evaluation and planning
- Policy formation
- Training and training materials
- Demonstrations

**Anticipated Outcomes**
- Models of good practice developed within the four partner institutions
- Application for more widely access the sector, particularly when working with complex multimedia objects
The Nature of Visual Arts Research Data

Language and Understanding
> research data?
> research outputs?
> research information?
> archiving vs. studio documentation
> curating an exhibition vs. data curation

The Nature of Artistic Research

Organisational moments

[... fluid, wet and folded, if not at times messy, fuzzy and tumultuous.

[Gray and Edey 2010, cited in May 2010]

[Qualitative research can be difficult to define clearly

[Denzin and Lincoln 2009]
The Nature of Artistic Research

"[...] fluid, 'wet' and folded, if not at times messy, fuzzy and tumultuous."
(Gray and Delday 2010, cited in Mey 2010)

"[qualitative research can be] difficult to define clearly"
(Denzin and Lincoln 2005)
Language and Understanding

> research data?
> research outputs?
> research information?

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Execution in Progress
© Toby Simkin
http://www.flickr.com/photos/tobysimkin/5191500156/
"organisational moments"

Sketchbook  >  Exhibition  >  REF 2014 (Research Excellence Framework)  >  Lectures

Visual arts research as a "continuum" over time with "organisational moments" at which research data may be actualised
Research data and context

Autumn leaves, October 2005 © Eva Ekeblad
http://www.flickr.com/photos/evaekkeblad/1169803024/in/photostream/

Evening dress, Spring 1962 © London College of Fashion,
University of the Arts London
http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=186712

Horrockses fashion dress, 1950s.
© The Arts University College at
Bournemouth
http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=50298

Horrockses dress, 1965
© London College of
Fashion/The Woolmark Company
http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=170429

"organisational moments"
Paul Hurley's 'Becoming Snail'.
© University of Bristol 2009.
Documentation Exemplar

final score consisting of:

> score-level information
e.g. name of the author/s

> work-level information
e.g. an interview with the artist

> version-level information
e.g. a promotional poster for an individual performance

> elements records
e.g. objects, garments, roles, spatial & locative, audio visual & electronic

Paul Hurley's 'Becoming Snail'.
© University of Bristol 2009.
**User Requirement, Systems Evaluation and Piloting**

- user requirement
- systems evaluation
- pilot research data management system
- deadline: October 2012
- partner institution adoption

**Capacity Building**

- internal dissemination
- creation of toolkits and training materials for researchers and professional support staff
- external dissemination
- partner institutional case studies
- project conference
- deadline: March 2013

**Policy Formation**

- partner institutional working groups established
- recommendations made to respective Research Committees
- high level strategy based on the University of Edinburgh model
- deadline: December 2012
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> website: http://vads.ac.uk/kaptur/
> events: http://vads.ac.uk/kaptur/events.html
> outputs: http://vads.ac.uk/kaptur/outputs/
> SlideShare.net: http://www.slideshare.net/kaptur_mrd/
> Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/pages/JISC-Kaptur/277914272231913
> Twitter: @MTG_work and @UALKaptur

https://twitter.com/MTG_work
https://twitter.com/UALKaptur

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