DIGITAL PROJECTS – LIST 15 (BRICMICS 11 November 2009; updated following the meeting)

At the Spring 2002 BRICMICS meeting it was suggested that BRICMICS should maintain a list of British and Irish digital projects, to include announcements of upcoming projects, details of those in progress or completed, and information about new maps on the Internet.

The intention of the list is to alert colleagues to projects which might be of interest. It is also hoped that it will help to prevent duplication of effort.

It is not meant, however, to replicate information already available on the History of Cartography website at: http://www.maphistory.info/projects.html and http://www.maphistory.info/webimages.html

All lists compiled so far are available at: http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/digital.html

BODLEIAN LIBRARY

Project previously listed:

Large Scale Ordnance Survey Holdings
Digitisation and geo-rectification of the Bodleian’s large-scale Ordnance Survey holdings by DigiData Technologies has been underway since early 2005.

BRITISH LIBRARY

King George III’s Geographical Collections
Efforts continue to raise money for the digitisation of these collections.

Vulnerable Items Project
With Phase I and II complete, a third round of funding is currently being sought. Phase III would extend the geographic coverage and add another 3,000 maps selected for digitization and cataloguing. Nearly 5,000 records and map images are currently visible in the BL’s OPAC (http://catalogue.bl.uk/F/?func=file&file_name=login-bl-list)

HYDRORAPHIC OFFICE

Steady progress continues to be made with the digitisation of the paper indexes.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND

ScotlandsPlaces
The National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) are the partners in a new venture: ScotlandsPlaces. This combines catalogues and digital copies of maps, plans, photographs and other records from each institution to offer an online service, primarily for the benefit of local historians, but also for other researchers, including archaeologists, social and economic historians, genealogists, and architectural historians.

Utilising innovative technology (CYGnus: Connecting Your Geographies Network Utility Service), developed by the University of Edinburgh’s Geography Department, the project builds on recent work by the NAS and RCAHMS in digital imaging of records, gazetteer construction and geographical information systems (GIS).

In terms of historical records, the main contributions to the site from the NAS include maps and plans from the Register House Plans series, the farm horse tax rolls (1797-98) and the Medical Officer of Health reports for Scottish counties in 1891.

The resulting website was launched by Culture Minister, Michael Russell MSP, as part of the Scotland’s Global Impact Conference at Inverness on 22 October. The prototype website will be undergoing user testing between October 2009 and March 2010 and you can tell us what you think of it by trying it at www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk and filling in the feedback form.
New website additions:

- **Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile maps of Scotland, 1855-1882** (June 2009)
  All 13,045 published sheets, covering cultivated / populated areas in Scotland. Commencing after the Battle of the Scales, so excluding six Scottish counties and the Isle of Lewis that had been mapped already at the six-inch to the mile scale. [http://www.nls.uk/maps/os/25inch/](http://www.nls.uk/maps/os/25inch/)

- **Ordnance Survey Air Photo Mosaics of Scotland - 1:10,560 – 1945-1950** (September 2009)
  221 sheets, covering the more settled parts of Scotland. These have been geo-referenced, and made available through a zoomable map interface and with a Google / Bing modern map / satellite image backdrop [http://www.nls.uk/maps/os/air-photos/index.html](http://www.nls.uk/maps/os/air-photos/index.html)

- **Visualising Urban Geographies**
  This 15 month collaborative project aims to bring together historical data provided by Professor Richard Rodger with historical maps provided by the National Library of Scotland. This partnership will create an online resource allowing new insights into the spatial character and historical development of Edinburgh. The objective is also to enable others – students, academics and the public – to use new open source tools for related web-applications to reveal the spatial characteristics of their own cities. [http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist/index.html](http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist/index.html)

**Scanning**

- **Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile, Scotland, 1890s – 1940s. ca. 8,000 sheets** (December 2009)

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES**

(Huw Thomas)

The Library is in the early stages of a project looking into the possibility of digitising all the tithe maps of Wales. The project is subject to obtaining funding from external sources.

**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND**

(Valerie Adams)

The Library and Information Services Council’s Digitisation Working Group are planning to digitise Belfast maps held by PRONI, various Northern Ireland libraries and the Ulster Museum. Metadata based on a Union List of Belfast Maps produced in 1998 is being prepared in readiness for scanning.

**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

(Rose Mitchell)

The National Archives has launched a digitised collection of early Irish maps (c.1558 – c.1610) from the State Papers Ireland at [http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/irishmaps.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/irishmaps.asp).

The collection comprises more than 70 maps, amongst the earliest cartographic representations of Ireland, depicting plantations, fortifications and townships during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, including the famous 1567 map of Hibernia by John Goghe.

Some of the maps are by Richard Bartlett, on whom John Andrews has recently written in his book ‘The Queen's last map-maker’, obviously drawn before Bartlett was beheaded by inhabitants of Donegal. Other well known mapmakers of the day are represented, such as Robert Lythe, Francis Jobson, Richard Bartlett and John Norden.

**TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY DUBLIN**

(Paul Ferguson)

Together with Brown Projects, Dublin, the Map Library has scanned all the approx. 650 maps of Ireland at 1:25,000 from GSGS 3906 published in about 1942. Reduced from pre-1922 1:10,560 county mapping, this is the only map to cover Ireland at this scale. The aim is to provide a base for a GIS to facilitate student projects.

Anne Taylor
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