DIGITAL PROJECTS – LIST 22 (BRICMICS, 16 May 2013 ; 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 (Nick Millea)

Previously listed:

Large Scale Ordnance Survey Holdings
Digisisation and geo-rectification of the Bodleian’s large-scale Ordnance Survey holdings by Protinus Holdings (previously known as Data Holdings) has been underway since early 2005. The scanning operation continues in Swindon where the maps are stored.

BRITISH LIBRARY (Kimberly Kowal)

BL Georeferencer http://www.bl.uk/maps/index.html
A third batch of scanned maps was released for georeferencing via online crowdsourcing using BL’s customised Georeferencer tool in January 2013. All 781 maps were completed by the public in four days; these have all been added to the Old Maps Online http://www.oldmapsonline.org search portal.

WWI maps
Maps selected for inclusion in the WWI EU-funded digitisation programme being led by the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin have been digitised, and they will appear via BL Georeferencer later this year. They will be available in Europeana http://www.europeana.eu/ in 2014.

Goad fire insurance mapping of British towns
All first editions of BL-owned Goad mapping of British and Irish towns have been scanned and will be posted online this summer.

Mapping of the Persian Gulf
Maps of areas in the Persian Gulf and Middle East will continue to be selected and scanned as part of the larger BL / Qatar Foundation partnership.

Ordnance Surveyors’ Drawings
The existing digital images of the Ordnance Surveyors’ Drawings have been “opened up” for reuse under an Open Government Licence. A small sample has already been posted to Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=ordnance+drawings&title=Special%3ASearch), and the remaining 400 or so will follow. For a blog entry about this see http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/magnificentmaps/2013/05/ordnance-surveyors-drawings-opened-for-reuse.html

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (Anne Dixon)

This new web page gives access to scans of maps and sections from 1835 to 1905 that were produced in hand-coloured form. The maps are delivered under Open Government Licence as part of BGS OpenGeoscience.

Anglesey Interactive Geological Map http://www.bgs.ac.uk/ebooks/angleseyImap/english.html
Website enhancements

- In December we completed the revision of our main maps website, with a new architecture, design and integration of the geo and maps domains into one to allow easier navigation and consistency: http://maps.nls.uk

- We are currently implementing a new faster viewer for map images based on the open-source IIPImage software and using JPEG2000 images, as well as standardising all map image viewer URLs to a common format.

Recent website additions:

- **Descriptive Gazetteers of Scotland (19th century)** A collection of 20 volumes of descriptive gazetteers of Scotland. As reported in the previous list, these were scanned in 2012 and are available on the Internet Archive website (http://archive.org/details/scottishgazetteers) but were added to the NLS website in February at:
  
  http://digital.nls.uk/gazetteers-of-scotland-1803-1901

- **National Grid viewer** In March we upgraded our National Grid viewer with sheetlines for all 1:10,000 and larger scale maps of Great Britain to provide a search tool for in-copyright mapping:
  
  http://maps.nls.uk/geo/national-grid/

Planned website additions:

- **Bartholomew Duncan Street Explorer.** An interactive guide to Bartholomew's premises in the 20th century, looking at map production through the various rooms of draughtsmen, engravers, colourists, printers, etc.

- **Archaeology Scotland collaborative website** for secondary schools on using and interpreting maps.

Planned digitisation

We are currently scanning and georeferencing OS 1:10,000/1:10,560 maps of Great Britain. We plan to scan all Post Office Directory Maps of Scotland later this year, along with selective early maps of Scotland to broaden those currently available on the Map Images website.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

(Wesley Geddis)

- Valuation Revision Books (VAL/12/B) 1863–1930 are now available on the PRONI website http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/val12b.htm but there are currently no plans to digitise the associated Valuation Maps.

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

(Paul Ferguson)

Down Survey Project http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/

This recently launched project has brought together the surviving maps from libraries in Ireland, Britain and France in a new digital format. Taken in the years 1656-1658, the Down Survey was the first detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world, measuring the estates to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish. The website includes an historical GIS relating to other contemporary sources and overlaying them on modern Google Maps and satellite imagery. This is easily the most important development in Irish historical mapping since the first edition OSI maps came online.

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