

Kultivating Kultur

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Abstract: Institutional Repositories (IRs) within the UK have traditionally focused upon text based research and have had a low uptake within the creative arts. The Kultur Project, funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) for the period 2007-2009, was a highly successful collaboration between University of Southampton, including Winchester School of Art, University of the Arts London, University for the Creative Arts and the Visual Arts Data Service (VADS). Using EPrints software the project investigated how best to store, share and promote research in the creative arts in a way that could function as a multimedia showcase for digital versions of creative works as well documenting performances, exhibitions and installations. A policy framework was also developed as a model of good practice that included guidelines for handling rights issues related to artistic and cultural outputs. The Project resulted in the launch of IRs at the three partner institutions during 2009. The success of the Kultur Project is such that it has led to the Art Design Media Open Educational Resources Project funded by JISC. This is a discipline-based project that seeks to make digital learning resources available to the wider community via IRs and OpenJorum. The project is lead by the Art Design Media (ADM) Higher Education Academy Subject Centre at University of Brighton and the partners are University of the Arts London, University for the Creative Arts and University of Cumbria. It runs for one year and is due to finish in April 2010. The Kultur Project has also stimulated so much interest within the UK art and design higher education sector that the longer term ambition of the original Kultur partners, subject to securing the necessary funds, is to develop the Kultur Project into the Kultivate Project. The over-arching aim of Kultivate would be to establish a sector-wide Arts Repository for the benefit both of the small specialist institutions and of arts departments within large universities. We would also like to explore opportunities for cross-sectoral alliances to bring in content from galleries and museums.