CCN+ Newsletter, January 2014

Upcoming Events

Playing for Change, 19th Feb, Manchester Metropolitan University

To mark the establishment of the Games and Social Change Network hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University and supported by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, this FREE one-day event will provide participants with an introduction to explore some of the diverse potentials of play and games as agents of change. The event will comprise of workshops and presentations from leading exponents of socially aware game design and play cultures. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to play examples of these games, and practice how to make them. **Read more**

ITaaU Data Analysis Workshop, 7th March, University of Southampton

This workshop will focus on the analytic aspects of data in the context of IT utilities in the digital economy. As such the organisers welcome mathematicians and statisticians in addition to others who have an ongoing interest in our programme of workshops.

Places are limited – please register if interested. Register **here** or for further information on the workshop, please contact info@itutility.ac.uk

Research

Digital Data Analysis: Final Report

The final report for the completed CCN+ pilot study 'Digital Data Analysis, Public Engagement and the Social Life of Methods' is now available on the CCN+ website. This study explored how public sector organisations might use digital data analysis applications to know and engage their publics, and experimented with a range of tools.

Since completing the study, Principal Investigator Helen Kennedy has gone onto secure an AHRC Fellowship for her project, 'Understanding Social Media Monitoring', which will consolidate research previously undertaken, including interviews with social media monitoring professionals, focus group research with social media users and action research into the use of social media monitoring in public sector organisations. The Fellowship will involve completing a book, already under contract with Palgrave Macmillan, entitled *Social Media Monitoring and the Production of Social Life*. **Read the report**.

Who we are

The Digital Economy 'Communities and Culture' Network+ engages with digital transformations, bringing them together with a wider public through direct engagements, innovative methods and digital resources.

Funding

Open call for seed funding

Funding for seed projects of £1-4k per project (to fund small discrete projects within the remit of the CCN+.

Next deadline: 28th Feb 2014

The next call for CCN+ Pilot Studies, Networks and Placements will be issued in March 2014

Research

York StoryStorm Event

In March the CCN+ StoryStorm network will hold the second of its events in York, linked to the Arts and Humanities Research Council Connected Communities project 'How should decisions about heritage be made?' The event will form part of a wider 'Public Inquiry' into the affects of heritage decision making on the lives of people in York through focusing on storming the histories and stories of 1964 Brutalist-style building Stonebow House. Hated by some, Stonebow House is home to York's only mid-size gig and music venues and – due to lower commercial rents than other parts of the city – the Job Centre, a bookies and a comparatively affordable supermarket and cafe. Following a recent York City Council Cabinet decision to purchase the freehold of the land and building, the future of Stonebow House is now uncertain. We will use a combination of exhibits and workshops to enrich the 'evidence base' which might then inform this decision – we will ask 'what are the stories of Stonebow House and what might be the stories to come'? **Read more**

NNDV collaboration on Digital Visuality

CCN+ Research Fellow Edgar Gómez Cruz is currently involved in an ongoing collaboration with Asko Lehmuskallio, Researcher at the Academy of Finland and member of the steering group of the Nordic Research Network for Digital Visuality. In October 2013 Asko and Edgar were awarded a *Travel Grant for Advancing Research in Digital Visuality*, a small grant offered by the NNDV to support and expand the aims of the network, intended to support a 3-5 day visit to another institution.

Asko travelled to Leeds in December 2013 and Edgar will be visiting Helsinki in April. Together they plan to prepare a proposal for a book on Material Visual Practices - an edited compilation about digital photography and its current role within everyday life. The volume will bring together highly innovative empirical research, from a wide range of settings, to consider how digital photography is being practiced, and its wider impact on everyday life. **Read more**

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From the Network

Pararchive

The AHRC funded project 'Pararchive: Open Access Community Storytelling and the Digital Archive' is aiming to co-produce a new 'open' digital resource that will allow anyone to search and collect on-line sources and to combine them with their own media (film, photographs and other ephemera) in order to tell their own stories, make new archives, be creative, start new projects and do their own research. It will, for example, allow communities to research and document their histories via the creative linking of their own digital content with archival material from public institutions such as the BBC and the Science Museum Group.

Based at the Institute of Communications Studies, University of Leeds, Pararchive is part of the AHRC's Connected Communities theme, and has been funded under the Digital Transformations in Community Research Co-Production in the Arts and Humanities. The team are currently working with four community groups to develop new resources from the 'bottom-up' (instead of the conventional 'top-down'), and aim to co-produce a more open resource that functions effectively for a diverse range of users and communities, and which facilitates creative use of public archival content. **Read more**

Opportunities

Project Sunshine studentship - APPLICATIONS NOW INVITED
Deadline: 3rd Feb 2014
Contact: Farida Vis (f.vis@sheffield.ac.uk)

Applications are invited from UK, EU or International students for a four-year PhD studentship at the University of Sheffield. The award covers full tuition fees, an annual stipend and a Research Training Support Grant.

The project will address the challenge of integrating different kinds of evidence to improve our understanding of contemporary food supply chains. The supervisors will be Professor Peter Jackson (Geography) and Dr Farida Vis (Information School), with Professor Peter Horton (MBB) as an advisor. Full details can be found at http://www.shef.ac.uk/is/pgr/pgrindex.

ITaaU embedded librarian scheme

ITaaU is looking to fund information specialists to spend two months acting as an embedded librarian within an academic research team.

The IT as a Utility Network+ has run a series of workshops on the theme of Libraries of the Future. In the context of the Digital Economy the role of the information specialist becomes increasingly relevant across many areas. Furthermore, the evolution of ICT technologies into services and utilities offers many benefits for libraries and other information repositories. As the role of libraries and librarians evolves, many opportunities and possibilities are emerging. Interestingly, a number of these resonate with the origins of libraries as locations for knowledge production. With the advent of IT as a pervasive enabler, many possibilities exist for librarians to support knowledge production from within the research team, particularly with the multidisciplinary research team.

Further details and link to application form: http://www.itutility.ac.uk/home/itaau-secondment-opportunity-embedded-librarian

Funding Opportunity: Data Exploration - Creating New Insight and Value

The EPSRC is working with the Technology Strategy Board on a 'Data Exploration' collaborative research and development call. The TSB is to invest up to £4.5m in collaborative research and development that addresses the technical challenges and business opportunities presented by the huge growth in data.

This competition focuses on innovations in the data exploration techniques of analytics, modelling and visualisation to generate new insight and value from large amounts of complex data. Proposals must be collaborative and business-led and include at least one small or medium-sized enterprise (SME). Projects are expected to range in size from total costs of £100k to £500k, although projects outside this range may be considered, and they should last between six and 24 months.

This competition opened for applicants on **6 January 2014**. The deadline for registration is at **noon on 26 February 2014** and the deadline for applications is at **noon on 5 March 2014**. **Read more**