Upcoming Events

Collaborative Futures: CCN+ Annual Event
11th-12th Dec 2014, University of Leeds

Our annual event will be held on December 11-12, 2014 at the University of Leeds. The theme is Collaborative Futures and in response to the recommendations of the Impact Report we will be facilitating dialogue between connected projects and seeking ways for projects to move forward in a connected, collaborative and supported way.

We will require a 15 minute presentation for each attending project on Thursday to be followed by collaborative workshops on the Friday.

Event start: 10.00 December 11
Event end: 13.00 December 12

Based on the outcomes of the event, the Steering Committee will authorise support for future interconnected and collaborative projects.

Further details can be found here.

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

All funding opportunities from the CCN+ have now closed.
Research

New Seed Projects

Three new seed projects have been agreed to start in the new year: “Sans Duty – Making Tax Visible”, led by Dr. James Duggan from Manchester Metropolitan University, will use a design fiction approach to interrogate the complex relationship between tax and local communities, exploring with community members the ethical and practical issues in implementing a grassroots, community-led, digital, transparent system around the payment of tax; “Rural Crafting Communities in the Digital Age”, led by Dr. Leanne Townsend from the University of Aberdeen, will investigate how can we co-produce digital practices which empower rural craftspeople and promote their professional and creative practices; and “Interrogating the complexities of digital communication for young people engaged in social action”, led by Dr. Lee Edwards from the University of Leeds, will investigate how the complexities of digital technology facilitate or constrain narratives deployed by young people as interventions in their communities and how they affect young communicators’ sense of voice and recognition, and of being able to make an effective intervention in their communities.

New Pilot Projects

Three new pilot projects have been agreed to be funded by a panel of reviewers in London on November 21. Details to follow soon.

Reports

The final report from the ‘Sustaining Networked Knowledge’ network activity, led by Kate O’Riordan from the University of Sussex, is now available on the CCN+ website. The activity focused on research that pursued questions about a) how non-institutionalized communities engage in digital media, and b) how to sustain feminist networked knowledge production. Read the report here.

The interim report from the ‘Exploring Digital Transformations of Community, Culture and Welfare in Austere Times’ pilot project, led by Stuart Hodkinson from the University of Leeds, is also now available on the CCN+ website. The project focuses on the variegated impact and implications for culture and community of a digitally transformed UK welfare system for three specific communities of interest – public administrators of welfare support, frontline welfare law advisors and those receiving or needing welfare support. Read the report here.

From the Network

Community engagement and participation with 3-D cultural heritage visualisations

As a result of the CCN+ grant, the researchers on this project, led by Lizzy Tait, were invited to participate in Elgin’s Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere initiative (led by Moray Council but involving several local stakeholders including heritage organisations) which was about developing ‘heritage trails’ in Elgin. They presented the findings from their project to the project management working group and are being included in a Heritage Lottery Funding application due at the end of November to do more laser scanning and visualisation for the project.

They were also awarded a Pilot grant for a project called 'Bring Your Own Heritage' from the IT as a Utility Digital Economy network to build on the findings from the seed grant from CCN+ and are specifically looking at digital cultural heritage activities in relation to the library. Elgin Library is the partner and they are working with them to develop a series of user engagement events involving laser scanning and visualisation with 3D game engines.
Social Media and Community Volunteering

Dr Ágnes Gulyás will be presenting a paper about this project, ‘Social media adoption and digital literacy in small third sector organisations’ at the Meccsa Annual conference, 7-9 January 2015, Northumbria University, Newcastle.

Sexual Health in a Digital Age

12 January 1.00-5.00pm, 1.17 Clothworkers’ Building North, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT

Book your place here.

We would like to invite you to a half day workshop to consider the impact of digital media (social networking sites and mobile apps) for sexual health services in Leeds.

The workshop will give you an opportunity to:

• Understand how people are using digital tools in relation to sexual health
• Find out about research evidence in relation sexual health and digital media
• Consider what this means for sexual health services in Leeds
• Identify practical steps arising from the session.

The workshop is led by:

Victoria Betton, programme director for the mHealthHabitat – a digital programme for the NHS in Leeds.

Dr Sharif Molabocus – a senior lecturer in digital media at the University of Sussex who specialises in sexual health.

Dr Helen Thornham – a research fellow at the University of Leeds who specialises in digital media and gender.

This free workshop is for anyone working in sexual health service who is interested in considering how digital media impacts on sexual health services and how services can respond to new methods of communication and connection.

We hope you can make it! Book your place here.
Craig Robertson, the CCN+ Coordinator, has been hired by the Min-On Concert Association in Tokyo to act as a research consultant for the establishment of the new Min-On Music Research Institute. Other consultants include Olivier Urbain, director of the Toda Institute in Honolulu; Michael Golden, Professor of Music Composition and Theory at the Soka University in California; and Elaine Change, Sistema Fellow at CUNY. A national Japanese newspaper, Seikyo, published a front-page story announcing the new venture.