Digital Heritage: Equipping Students for the cultural and creative industries

UEA Learning and Teaching Day
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Introduction:

British Archive for Contemporary Writing
Based within University of East Anglia Archives

• Archive collections of contemporary writers including material from Doris Lessing, Nadine Gordimer, JD Salinger and UEA graduates: Adam Foulds, Tash Aw, Naomi Alderman, Charlie Higson, Snoo Wilson
• 50 years of UEA's Creative Writing heritage
• 300 recordings from the UEA Literary Festival's 25 year history
Unique cultural heritage material charting the evolution of a creative work or other forms of contemporary writing

Can include notebooks, diaries, correspondence, working drafts, proofs, author interviews

Material on the creative industries and their history: contracts, publisher correspondence
• East Anglian Film Archive – a valuable research resource, offering a unique insight into the culture, heritage and identity of the region.
• The archive also holds the collections of BBC East and ITV Anglia as well as the film library and papers of the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers.
Thousands of hours of moving image material on different formats dating from 1896 to the present day.
State of the art digitisation of films and other formats
Opportunities for UEA students

• Links with other institutions and industry enhance opportunities for UEA students

• BACW – has links with high profile contemporary writers & literary agents and the archive has attracted new holdings through an innovative collecting policy

• Partnership working with the British Library

• EAFA is a regional film archive and has strong links with the British Film Institute & licenses films to broadcasters, filmmakers and heritage organisations
How we support employability at UEA

Both archives offer

• Internships
• Volunteering opportunities
• Chase studentships
• BACW & EAFA support transitions events
• Students have the opportunity to experience working in a commercial/archive setting gaining both collection care and business skills

• Contributing to UEA’s innovative teaching and assessment ...
Developing Student ‘Media Literacies’ Using the East Anglian Film Archive

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Current Teaching

• Sessions within existing Modules

• Modules primarily based in HUM
  • AMA (FTM)
  • IIH (Foundation Year)
  • History
‘Mashup’ Competition

Avenida 03 (Analog Double Exposure) by Marcos Oliva is licensed under Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 2.0
Employability and Media Literacy

"A series of social, behavioural and technical skills that enable individuals to actively participate in media culture”

- HEA Knowledge Hub
What survives?

‘Gatekeeping’

Copyright & Piracy

Acquisition

Description

Digitisation

Gatekeeper by Luca Sartoni is licensed under (CC BY-SA 2.0)
What Survives?

- Life of film before it enters the archive
- Exploration of the Original and Authenticity (Versions)
- Restoration Case Studies
Copyright and Piracy

• Provide copyright overview

• Recreate professional experience of licensing content for use

• Reflect on EAFA’s experience with publication of content and its piracy
Digitisation and ‘Authenticity’

- Digitisation is a complex and interpretive process
- Consider original or ‘intrinsic’ qualities of analogue objects
  - Colour / Sound / Frame Rate / Format
Archival Acquisition and Description

• Acquisition
  • Role Play Exercise (Value)

• Description
  • Catalogue Group Exercise (‘Quality’ of metadata)

16mm film canisters by National Film and Sound Archive of Australia is licensed under (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)
Conclusions

• Development of Media Literacies:
  • Practical / Professional Knowledge (Media Archives)
  • Analytical / Evaluative skills
  • Social / Cultural awareness (Voices / Perspectives)

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British Archive for Contemporary Writing

Justine Mann (Archivist)
Since January 2016, 17 modules, reaching 250 students - particularly in LDC also AMA & HIS and areas for growth – student feedback extremely positive
The embedding of the Archive within teaching takes several forms:

Using collections where material complements existing module subjects e.g. study of an author

Using the presence of the archive and its professional approaches to collection management to equip students with insights into cultural heritage, wider environment related to copyright, licensing and publishing

Develops critical thinking, information literacy, commercial awareness
Case Study #1 Adam Foulds’ manuscripts

Students of contemporary literature engaging in critical thinking, textual analysis of unique and unmediated archive material

Understanding the creative and editorial processes that led to the finished novel and the author’s interactions with the publishing industry and its supply chain

Author responded to student queries via email
Case Study #2 Digitisation of Kenney Papers using Humanities Media Suite

AMA Digital Media Theory and Practice UG Students

Digitised facsimiles of original photographs and manuscripts/ letters from the Archive of a leading suffragette figure, Annie Kenney.

Considerations around process of digitisation and use of tools, discovery, copyright, application of metadata, and interpretation of digital surrogate
We ended #somethingdifferent week with an excellent blog training session from @bj_hynes for 15 of our #Unboxed student archive bloggers.

Lessing’s writing pushed boundaries and she lived life to the same beat

Posted on May 3, 2017

Unboxed

UNBOXED – Students lift the lid on the archive

There are lots of hidden literary gems in The British Archive for Contemporary Writing and we recruit volunteer student bloggers to help bring them to the attention of the world through social media.

View our Unboxed Blogs

Volunteers enjoy privileged access to the archives of some of our world renowned writers and receive training in literary archive research and archive handling as well as support in blog writing and social media.

Volunteers have opportunities to learn more about the work of the cultural heritage sector and understand more about potential careers in this area.

An Unboxed blog, from Martha Griffiths, first year student of American and English Literature at the University of East Anglia.

Amongst the 110 love letters held in the Whitehorn collection at the British Archive for Contemporary Writing from Doris Lessing to her wartime lover, perhaps one gives us a greater insight into her young life, and the society she grew up in. It was written to John R. M. Whitehorn, an RAF serviceman and intimate confidante and is dated sometime around January 1945.

This letter perfectly captures Lessing’s determination to make her own choices and...
A major challenge to the archive is in tackling digital preservation, particularly of born digital material. This presents future opportunities for research projects and collaborations that can in turn be embedded within teaching.
A collaboration with EAFA and other UEA and Norfolk heritage colleagues:

**PGT Module Title: Cultural Heritage & Archiving in the Digital Age**
Through a series of seminars, practical training sessions and site visits:

The module will introduce students to:

- Some of the theoretical research and frameworks, skills and technologies underlying contemporary digitisation practices and archive collection management and preservation
- How these relate to current research in Cultural Heritage and Digital Humanities
- Considerations around legal standards and frameworks, heritage policy and practice in the UK
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https://unboundueaarchives.wordpress.com/