

TOWARDS
A NATIONAL
COLLECTION



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

Getting Ready for a Digital Future

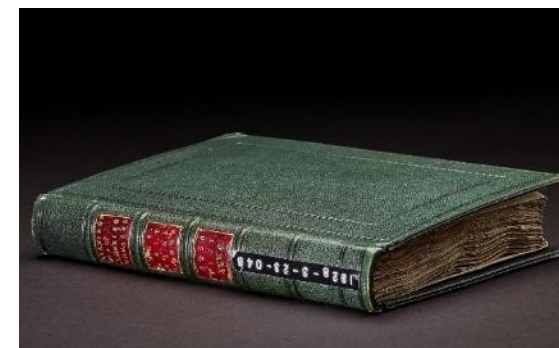
*University Museums Group
Reading, 2024*

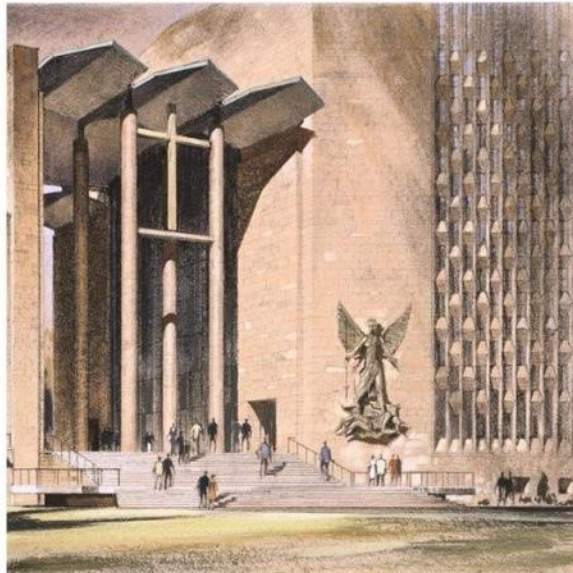
Javier Pereda
Senior Researcher

 nationalcollection.org.uk

 [nat_collection](https://twitter.com/nat_collection)

 [Towards A National Collection](https://www.youtube.com/TowardsANationalCollection)

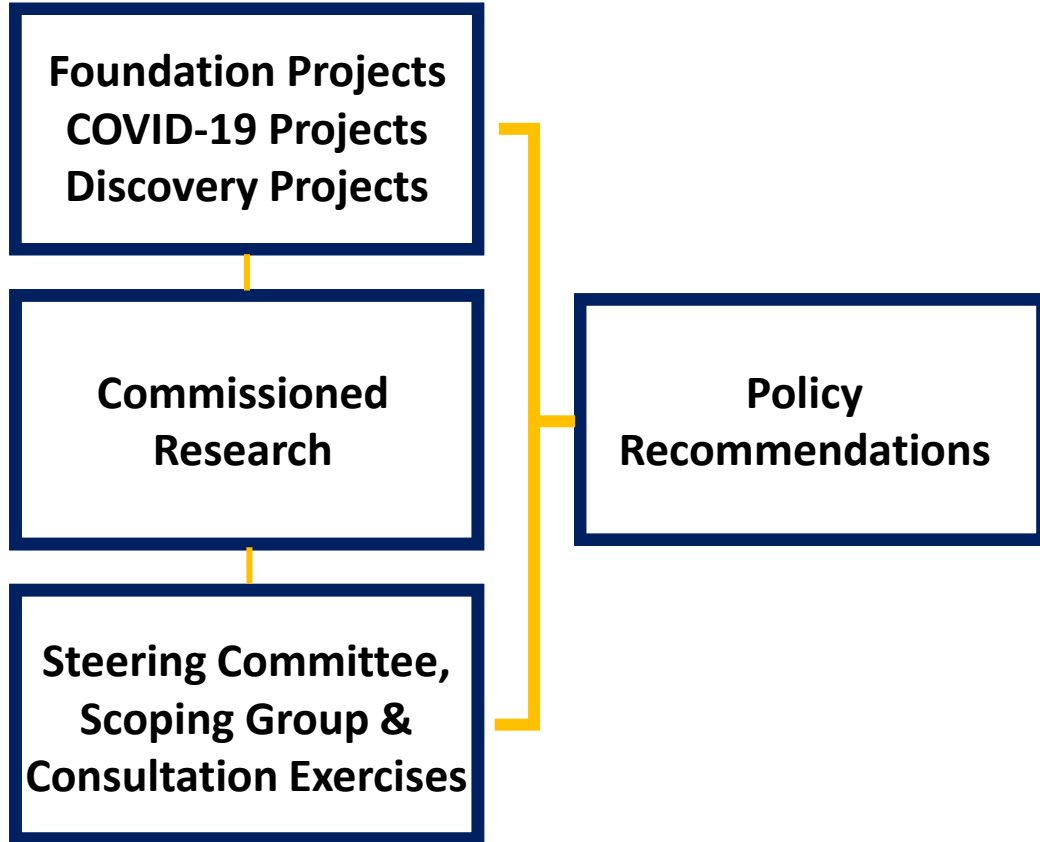


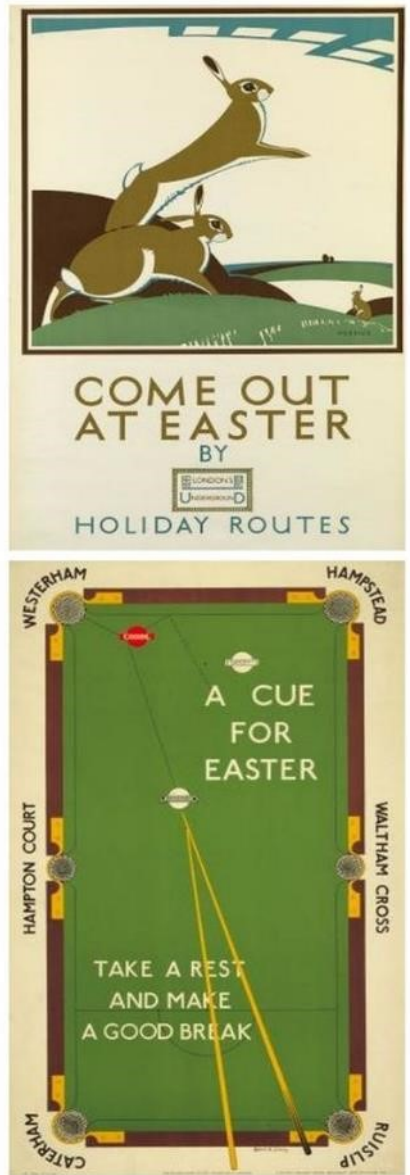


Overview

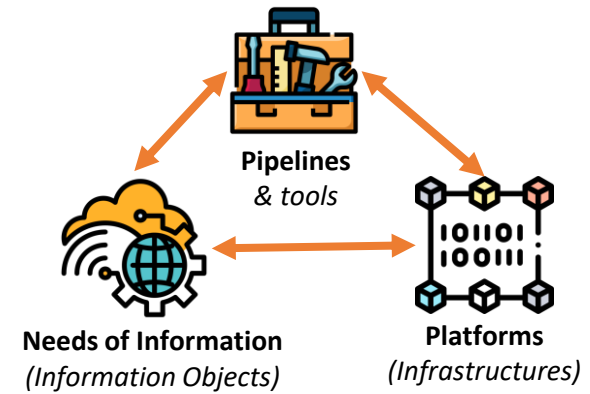
- *Towards a National Collection* is supporting research that breaks down the barriers that exist between the UK's outstanding cultural heritage collections, with the aim of opening them up to **new research opportunities** and **encouraging the public to explore** them in new ways
- The term '***national collection***' represents the breadth and range of culture and heritage collections across the UK

Developing TaNC Policy Recommendations





What is needed?



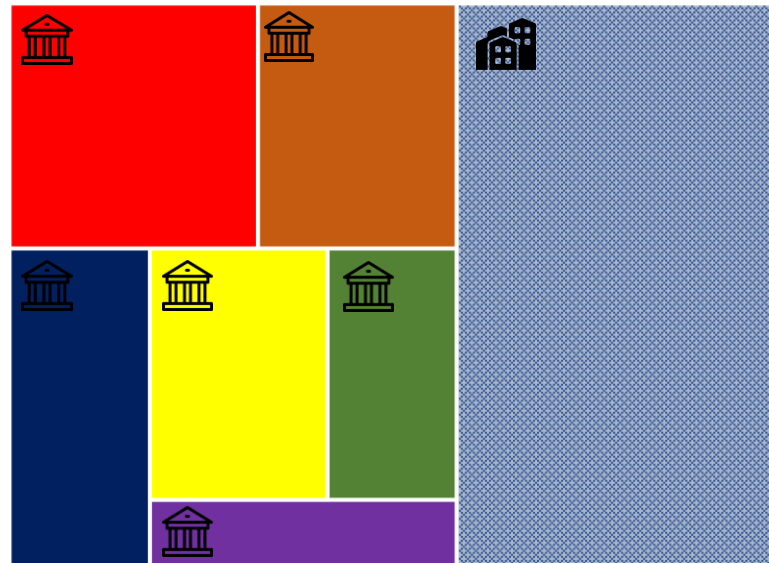
- How should we respond to the issues around capacity and digital readiness?
- Should it include only Open Access and equivalently licensed content?
- How should it maximise collaboration?
- How should we integrate broader world processes at design level?
- How do we ensure resilience and sustainability?

Key Evidence // Digital Collections Audit

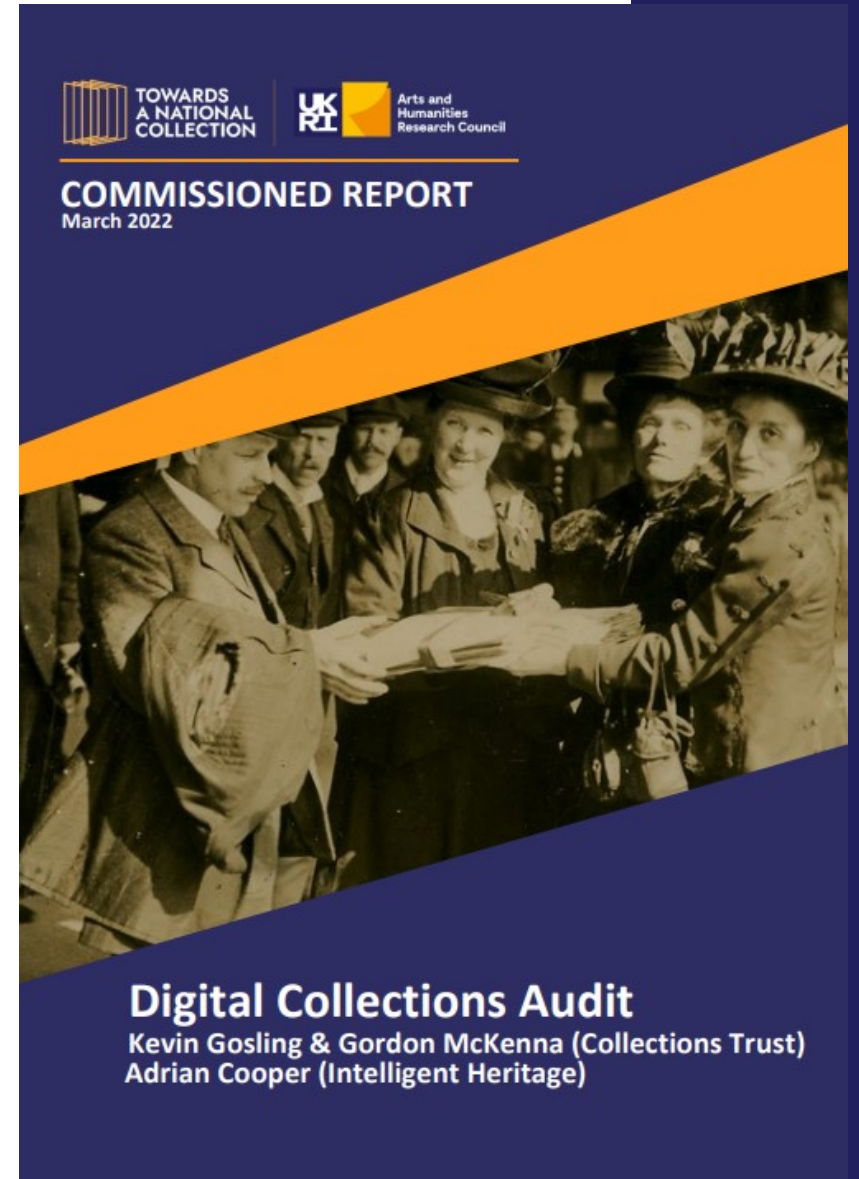
- Audit of 230 collections-holding cultural heritage institutions
- 230 institutions hold nearly 146 million item-level records



37 million have associated images or other media

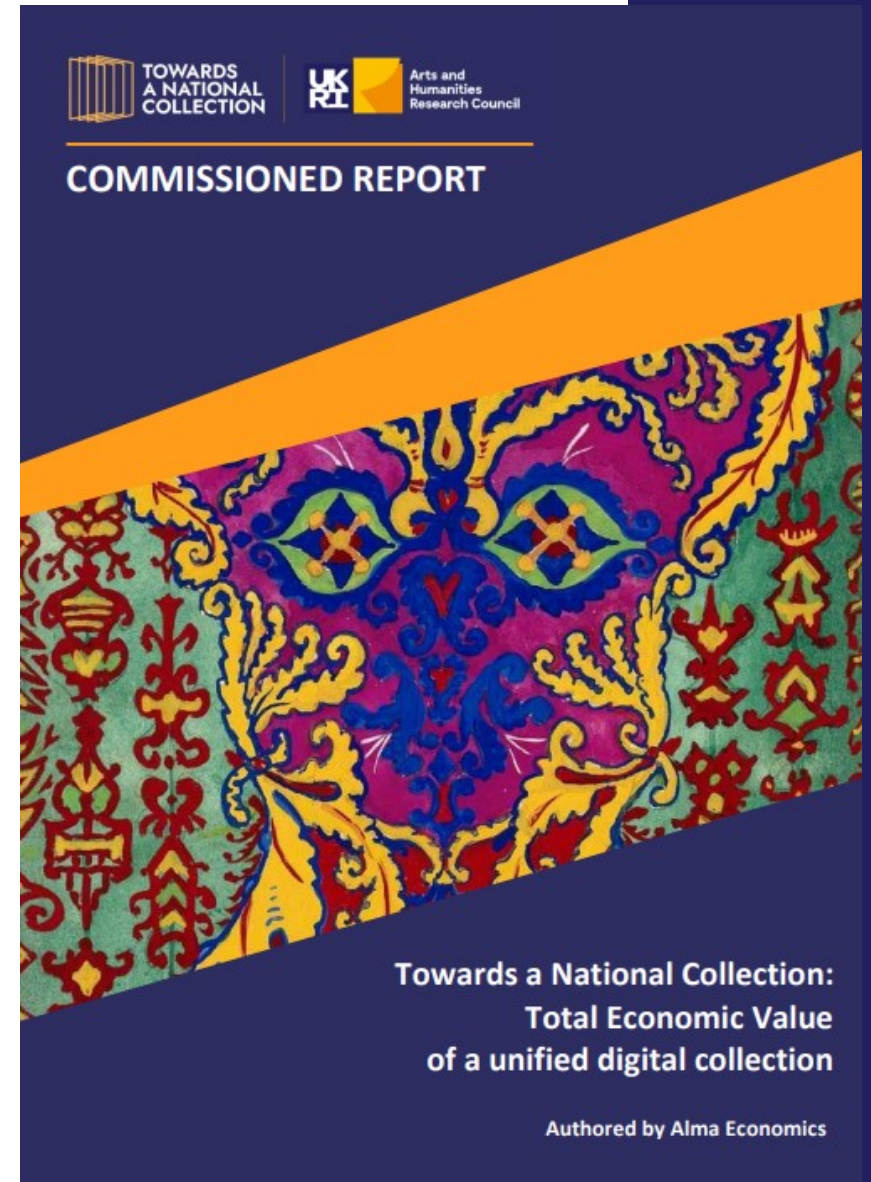


Over 50% of these assets are held only by six institutions



Key Evidence // Total Economic Value


- Total Economic Value for the service of around **£425 million per annum**
- **Three core distinct groups:**
 - General population
 - Formal researchers
 - Special interest





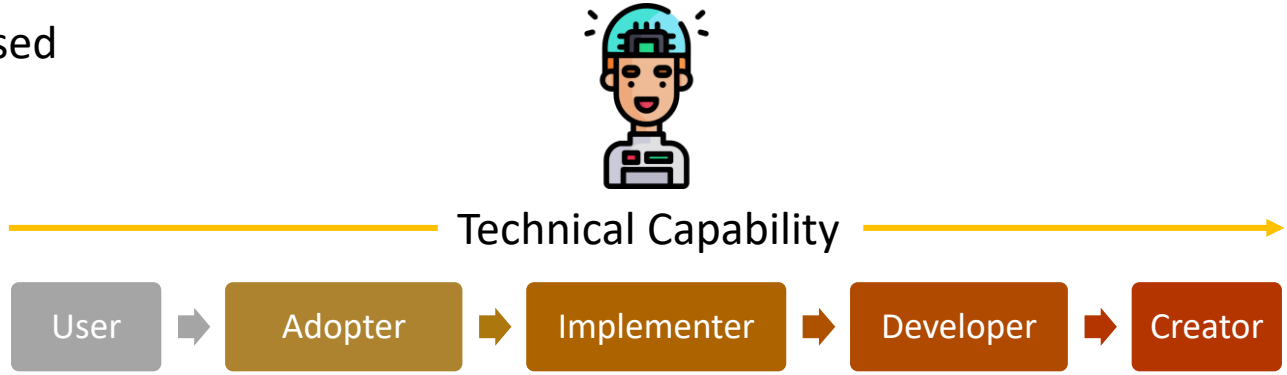
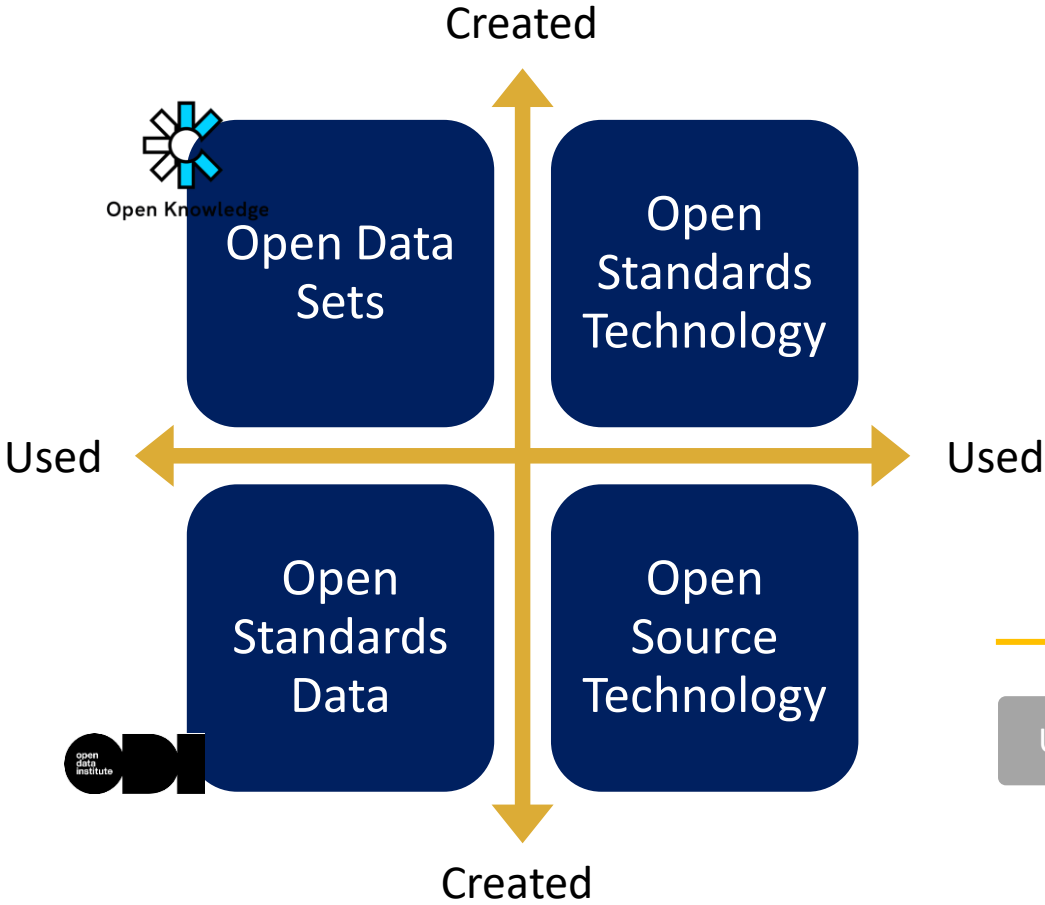
Key Evidence // Research Users

...more digitised material; for enhanced search and discovery; for established frameworks for interoperability, sustainability and collaboration to ensure a more inclusive and interconnected digital cultural heritage research environment.

 274 researchers



Key Evidence // Open Standards Audit



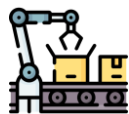
TaNC Policy Recommendations *(Current Draft)*

The ten areas we make recommendations on below are:



1. Selection

How to select materials from which to build digital collections



2. Production

How materials should be produced, the standards that should be applied to data and technology used for production



3. Skills

What key skills should be supported, developed and extended, and how we bridge the technology skills gaps in digital collections



4. Re-use & rights management

How to create sharable collections data



5. Access and engagement

What types of tools can be used to help people discover and engage with collections data



6. Security

How to secure digital collections data against digital harms



7. Preservation

How to preserve digital collections data for the long-term against different forms of technical, organisational and economic change



8. Impact

How analytics, evaluation and audience insight can help you understand and amplify the value of digital collections



9. Models & frameworks

How to standardise approaches to building digital collections to help others



10. Experimentation

How we should systematically experiment with new technologies and new ideas to evolve our digital collections for the future



TaNC Policy Recommendations

The ten areas we make recommendations on below are:



1. Selection

How to select materials from which to build digital collections

TaNC Training Materials



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS TRAINING FOR GLAMS

6. Security

How to secure digital collections data against digital harms

7. Preservation

How to preserve digital collections data for the long-term against different forms of technical, organisational and economic change

8. Impact

How a good evaluation and audit might help you understand and amplify the value of digital collections



9. Models & frameworks

How to standardise approaches to building digital collections to help others

10. Experimentation

How we should systematically / experiment with new technologies and new ideas to evolve our digital collections for the future

TaNC Policy Recommendations



1. Selection

How to select materials from which to build digital collections

Broaden our approach to what we include in our digital collections

Diversify who participates in the process of making them

Relevant for more diverse audiences

Reflect that evolutionary change is happening



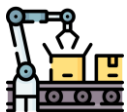
Born Digital, Transforming Collections
CC Open Culture Platform



Training Materials Sample Modules
Who is your digital collection audience?
Biases in collections



TaNC Policy Recommendations



2. Production

How materials should be produced, the standards that should be applied to data and technology used for production

Create a core amount of data that we can then build on over time

Open these records for automated and collective enrichment

Unlock the potential of AI to create new data in real-time



LIDO, Unpath'd Waters, OHOS
Congruence Engine,



Training Materials Sample Modules

Metadata basics

Data Wrangling



TaNC Policy Recommendations



3. Skills

What key skills should be supported, developed and extended, and how we bridge the technology skills gaps in digital collections

Broaden skills of data-creators and empower them as data owners

Invest in technological capacity for digital collections

Build large-scale partnerships with industry and academia

TaNC Training Materials



Digital Preservation Coalition –
Competency Framework



TaNC Policy Recommendations



4. Re-use & rights management

How to create sharable collections data



5. Access and engagement

What types of tools can be used to help people discover and engage with collections data



IIIF, PID, ODI, CC
European Data Space, Colls as Data, LaNC, Sloane Lab



Data should be made available on as open a basis as possible

Maximise the ability for this data to be re-used.

Open standards technologies in sharing data is critical

Data should be discoverable & accessible

Understandable by users and machines

Training Materials Sample Modules

Copyright and licensing

Open Vs Closed

Working with APIs



TaNC Policy Recommendations



7. Preservation

How to preserve digital collections data for the long-term against different forms of technical, organisational and economic change

Understand skills and technology for preservation

Sector-wide preservation for legacy assets

Focus on policy, technology and people



I skipped 6



Training Materials Sample Modules

Understanding Storage Systems

Value of metadata in systems such as the MDS

TaNC Policy Recommendations



8. Impact

How analytics, evaluation and audience insight can help you understand and amplify the value of digital collections

Audience insight, and usage

Sector-wide preservation for legacy assets

Evaluation & impact measurement of large-scale digital collections projects



Res. User Eval, Digital Footprints, Journal Usage Statistics (JISC), Digi Colls Audit



Training Materials Sample Modules
Collections as Data
GLAM Labs

TaNC Policy Recommendations



9. Models & frameworks

How to standardise approaches to building digital collections to help others

FAIR and CARE principles

Open repositories

Digital collection projects into open models and frameworks



Making it FAIR, CARE principles and Indigenous Governance, World Hist. Gazeteer



Training Materials Sample Modules
The MARC Supremacy
Towards Linked Open Data



TaNC Policy Recommendations



10. Experimentation

How we should systematically experiment with new technologies and new ideas to evolve our digital collections for the future



6. Security

How to secure digital collections data against digital harms



British Library, Historic England Digital Strategy



Open to emerging technologies and new ideas

Scale up investments in early-stage technical and creative R&D

Act close to industry to help shape new innovations

Facilitate safe, large-scale data access and extraction

Clear policy on who can create edit and publish data

Training Materials Sample Modules

Security and your digital collections

Organisational impact, legacy sites



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[@TrinkerMedia](https://www.instagram.com/TrinkerMedia)

www.nationalcollection.org.uk



including snake charmer, brick-layer, basket-maker, potter and wives.
Gouache drawing. 28438i © Wellcome Collection | Untitled 1986
1987.21, Keith Piper | Collection of beetles, Case containing beetles from
the Joseph Dandridge and Petiver collections. Some have Hans Sloane's
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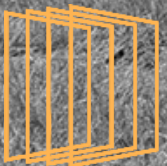
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Coventry. RIBA12685. © RIBA Collections | Cathedral Church of St
Michael, Coventry. RIBA28929. © RIBA Collections | Chapel of Christ in
Gethsemane with the relief by Steven Sykes seen through the iron 'Crown
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Slide 3: Portrait of Margaret Laton probably by Marcus Gheeraerts (the
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Margaret Layton's waistcoat of linen, embroidered with coloured silks,
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Slide 7: Women's land army dungarees, 2011/46, Museum of English
Rural Life & Special Collections University of Reading | 'Britain's Golden
Harvest' Buckinghamshire 1944. PFW PH2 W48 35/29304, Museum of
English Rural Life & Special Collections University of Reading | Bidford on
Avon. Bickmarsh Hall Farm, 1940s. Image courtesy of Joan Broscob.
Heritage & Culture Warwickshire

Slide 19: Lower Langham, Dolton, James Ravilius [1978],
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