

Teaching with digital archives: resource overview

Collection: Online teaching

Learning outcomes

1. To have a better understanding of how you might help students feel less overwhelmed by digital archives.
2. The advantages and disadvantages of presenting different kinds of learning materials online.

Overview

Over the last decade there has been a huge increase in the quality and range of scholarly information sources available to online researchers. All of the world's great research libraries, museums and publishers have digitized significant amounts of their collections and much of this information is being licensed and made available either freely or by subscription to the Higher Education sector for teaching and research purposes. Collections might contain digitized manuscripts, photographs, ephemera, music, sound or video as well as text.

Most collections are designed and developed in different ways, allowing the information contained within the underlying databases to be displayed in ways that the teams behind the technical and scholarly development of their archives had in mind. Understanding the changing conventions of information retrieval as applied to digital archives is an important component of digital literacy in the 21st century. However, whilst basic skills are important and transferable across multiple collections we often find that there are differences and idiosyncrasies in almost every resource.

One way to assist students to become effective navigators of online archives is to provide tutorials to guide them in using the archive. In this resource there is a group or



1 | This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.

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individual activity that demonstrates a variety of approaches that a practitioner might take to assist their students to discover information contained within complex online databases efficiently.

Activities within this resource

- Teaching with digital archives: group activity
 - Teaching with digital archives: individual activity
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Resources in the Online teaching Collection

- Online teaching: introduction to the collection
- What are VLE's good for?: resource overview
 - What is a VLE and why use it?: group activity
 - What is a VLE and why use it?: individual activity
- The design of online activities in English Studies: resource overview
 - Evaluating online activities in English Studies: group activity
 - Evaluating online activities in English Studies: individual activity
- Designing learning with new media: resource overview
 - Exploring new media and its potential in teaching: group activity
 - Exploring new media and its potential in teaching: individual activity
 - Designing an online activity in English Studies: group activity
 - Designing an online activity in English Studies: individual activity
- **Teaching with digital archives: resource overview (*you are here)**
 - Teaching with digital archives: group activity
 - Teaching with digital archives: individual activity
- Online discussion in English Studies: resource overview
 - Should online discussion be assessed?: group activity
 - Should online discussion be assessed?: individual activity
- Workshopping online: resource overview
 - Designing an online Creative Writing workshop: group activity
 - Designing an online Creative Writing workshop: individual activity

