

## **The DiadEM project: collection level description in libraries**

DiadEM is a regional initiative funded by the MLA and Libraries and Information East Midlands to create collection level descriptions (CLDs) of special library collections in the East Midlands. The data will be entered into MLA's national database, Cornucopia. At present this covers museums and archives within museums, but will expand to include special collections in libraries and to link to the archives in the Archives Hub to enable cross domain searching in one database. It will be possible to answer such questions as 'What are the best museums, libraries and archives to support research into caving?' or 'Where is the best library collection on John Clare?' Even digital collections are soon to be included – the MICHAEL project to create CLDs for digital collections in the EU will also be searchable through Cornucopia, so the coverage will become extremely wide. If Access to Archives is given funding to implement a Web Service interface, then the archives of public record offices and other non FE and HE establishments could also become searchable by linking to Cornucopia.

DiadEM's Steering Group includes representatives of all sectors in the East Midlands and benefits from the expert advice of Michael Heaney from the Bodleian Library and Chris Turner from MLA. Project worker Jane Evans, who is based at University College Northampton, has completed the first phase of the work over a six month period from November 2004 to April 2005. This has involved approaching LIEM member organisations to encourage them to register their special collections in preparation for input into Cornucopia. 25 institutions are participating initially. Non LIEM member libraries within the East Midlands region will also be approached at a later stage - a list of potential contributors has already been compiled. Work is now underway to ensure that appropriate support and guidance is in place to help librarians input their CLDs directly into Cornucopia. UKOLN are assisting with recommendations for the most appropriate subject headings for the database and they are also hoping to work on ways to export data from other RSLP databases into Cornucopia. Several other projects have created their own databases based on the RSLP schema and it would be useful therefore if data could be exported from these into the national one.

The preliminary collections mapping has already identified some interesting and unusual material held in the region's libraries and this information will be immensely helpful to learners not just in the East Midlands but across the country. The future is exciting as the vision of enabling searches across all domains - libraries, archives, museums and digital collections becomes a reality.

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