Repositories for Arts Research:
the KULTUR Project
http://kultur.eprints.org

The Kultur project is developing the capabilities of repositories so that they are better equipped for the curation of practice-based research outputs.

Approach

- **Sharing practice** between mature repository (Southampton), specialist arts institutions (UAL, UCA), and VADS' expertise in managing digital image collections

- **Refinement of EPrints software** with respect to visual and multimedia material

- **User-led:** repository development informed by detailed study of user requirements. The project is investigating cultural barriers and incentives for getting arts researchers to deposit their work.
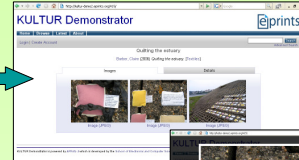
New interface

Images © Claire Barber

User requirements

This research community needs a repository that...

... offers an **active, dynamic space** for ongoing research – a space for collaborators to share and develop work/projects in progress.

...takes account of the eclectic forms of dissemination characteristic of practice-led arts research

...can manage complex objects effectively

...has a much more visual interface than traditional repositories

...provides artists with a choice of mechanisms for protecting IPR in image and time-based works

...has a flexible metadata schema that can accommodate exhibitions, shows, installations, performances as well as objects, and can describe their relations

...assists arts researchers in mediating between an academic and a professional art world. The repository is valued as an alternative to a personal website, and can be used for liaising with art galleries.
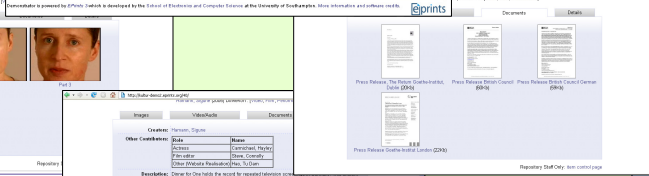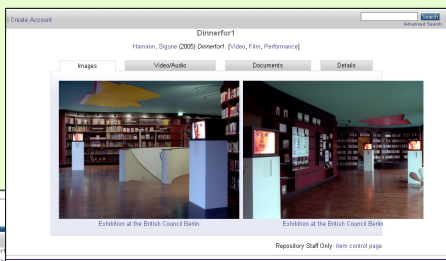
Curation of complex objects

Images © Sigune Hamann

Outputs and Benefits

- Two new institutional repositories for University of the Arts London and University for the Creative Arts and an enhanced repository for the University of Southampton

- A working model of a common arts repository which will be transferable to other institutions and departments across the sector.

- EPrints software and services enhanced to accommodate arts-based material

- Greater understanding of how metadata and copyright licences can be applied to digital objects in the creative arts

- Improved information infrastructure for practice-based research

Images © Emmanuelle Waeckerle

More visual, flexible workflow for depositing items

'Kultur für Alle' by Mario Blaimauer, from Flickr.

Project Team: Mark Brown (director), Victoria Sheppard, Wendy White (Soton), Andrew Gray (UAL), Dominic Persad (UCA), Tim Brody & Tim Miles-Board (EPrints)