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.

**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 work
- ...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.

**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

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