

HubbuB: News from the Archives Hub, February 2023

Archives Hub Upgrade

Our upgrade has been extremely challenging, and we are still working our way through it. At the moment, we are on the initial web testing phase, so the basic programming work and data loading are complete, but it will take some weeks more before we can look to make it live.

The reasons it is taking so long are manifold, and include the fact that it is a major upgrade to Elastic Search, which is the search engine we use - it has required a number of components to be re-programmed - and also the CIIM itself is having a major upgrade. Added to that, we are changing the architecture to make it more robust, which in essence means spreading the system across more machines, and again that requires things to be re-written.

In terms of the data, we are aiming to introduce a change to the name search within descriptions, which is a result of our Names Project that happened a few years ago. We are also focussing more on digital content, by providing filters by (a) image (b) link to webpage and (c) link to document. There are a number of additional interface changes which we will list in detail when we are ready to go live.

It is very frustrating for us that progress has been so slow, but the reward will be a much improved system.

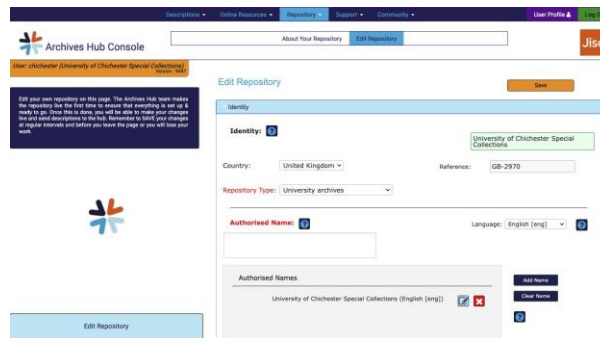
One quite major issue that has arisen is that a huge proportion of the images that are included in your descriptions are now broken links, as the images have been moved or deleted. On the current Archives Hub we have a cache of images, and we have been able to point to these, but they will not be carried over in the new system. Therefore, as things stand, around 40% of images will disappear. We are looking at whether we can move the stored images across to the new system. We will be in touch about this at some point.

Contributor Console

We have now launched our new Console. The idea is to bring together everything our contributors need in one place in terms of either functionality or links to tools and services that you might use.

We will focus more on explaining and promoting features of the Console once we have completed the upgrade, but a key improvement is that you can now edit your own repository descriptions.

There is a new Guide to creating and editing repository descriptions available from the Support area of the Console.

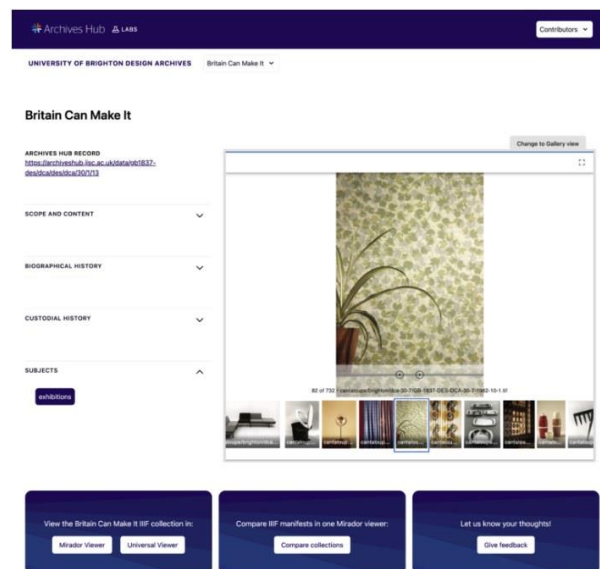


In order to provide the repository description changes you make to the Archives Portal Europe (APE) you will need to download the file using the APE button, and then upload it to the APE dashboard. We provide instructions for this within the Console. Whether we can implement a more automated method to provide the files to APE is something we have not yet been able to investigate.

We are very pleased with the Console, and we hope that it is convenient and useful to you. As always, we are happy to receive feedback.

Please note: As of 28 January 2023 the 'Make Live on the Hub' button has been disabled for archive descriptions and repository descriptions. This is due to a change made by Microsoft to the authentication required. We had no notice of this change, and although the idea is to provide improved security, it does involve us in re-writing our authentication process. We are hoping to avoid doing this for the old system, and only doing it for the upgrade, but obviously we don't want it to be disabled for too long. We will update you on this by email.

Archives Hub Labs



1 - Our test interface for IIF images, experimenting with integrating archival metadata

We have been continuing to develop our test interface, trying out Mirador and Universal Viewer. We are now working on integrating Machine Learning outputs using the annotations feature of IIF. More on this soon. Meanwhile, we have listed [all of the blog posts](#) that we have written on our Labs overview page, so that they are easier to access. The latest are on [Running Machine Learning in AWS](#), which takes you through how to set up an ML job (written by someone who is new to the

whole thing, so intended for a non-expert audience!) and [Exploring IIF for the Images and Machine Learning Project](#), which takes you through the development of our interface, with some screen shots

Archives Portal Europe News



APE are looking for volunteers to recruit new APE ambassadors. They would like to target students archival science, history, and communication in particular. The call is open to whomever would like to spare some time to help them.

Please see: <https://www.archivesportaleurope.net/blog/join-us-as-ape-ambassador-!/>

In addition, they have drawn our attention to a funding opportunity from Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe for a European Jewish Heritage grant programme - please see <https://rothschildfoundation.eu/what-we-fund/european-jewish-heritage/>

Remember that you can stay up to date with APE and news from APE contributors across Europe by reading the [APE blog](#).

Axiell Collections

We have been in touch with Axiell, trying to ascertain whether 'Collections' enables EAD export and what we need to do to implement it. It appears that the export routine is essentially the same as it is for AdLib, but there are a few configuration changes needed. It is hard for us to work on the export without suitable Collections volunteers, so if you have moved to Collections and would like to help us with the export, please do get in touch using our contributor email: contributors.hub@jisc.ac.uk