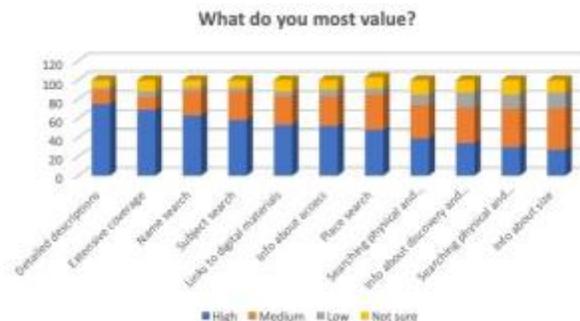# HubbuB: News from the Archives Hub, February 2021

2020 Survey Results

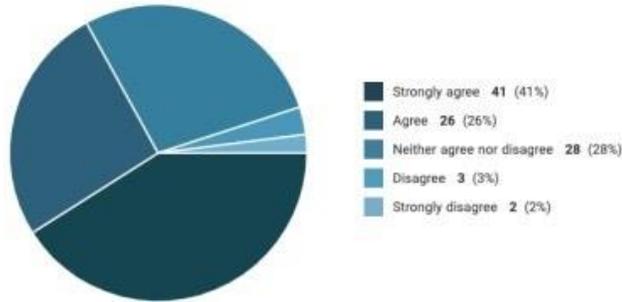We ran an online survey throughout November 2020 and got 100 responses from across the UK and beyond.

It is vital that the Archives Hub continues to successfully fulfil the role of a discovery service. A survey is only one means of gathering user requirements, but our surveys have consistently given us the same message.

Whilst we try to encourage people not to respond unless they have used the Hub, we did get quite a few first time users, which doesn't work so well for some of the questions, but overall the survey endorsed our general direction of travel. Of course, if you have any comments or feedback about the Archives Hub service, we are always pleased to hear from you.
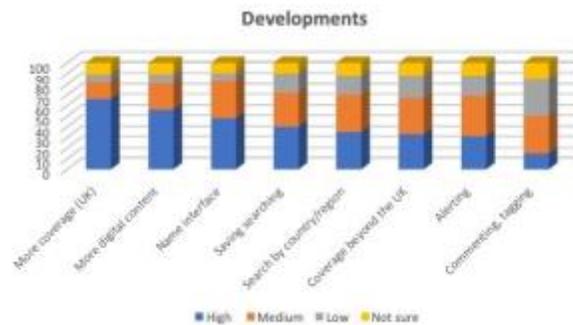
The full results of the survey are provided on our Value page: https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/value/

1 - As with all previous surveys, detailed & comprehensive coverage were the priorities

2 - 'I have found material I would not otherwise have discovered'

3 - Priorities for development

The development priorities again emphasise that the service needs to be as comprehensive as possible, and, increasingly, researchers appreciate digital content. We are currently working on a Names Project. Read any of our series of blog posts: https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/news/. It will certainly lead to better name searching, and connecting the Archives Hub to other sources, and we also hope to develop a new names interface.

We have not yet investigated providing saved searches and alerting. This would require major development of our system, and a log-in function to be added. If interest in this continues to grow, then we will look at it in more detail.

Importing from Modes

We have recently started working on importing descriptions from Modes. At present, we are working with some Modes users to analyse the current EAD export. The export may need changes, in order to make it valid and suitable for the Hub. Our Calm and AdLib export routines took many months to develop. It requires analysis of cataloguing practices, use of the fields, controlled vocabularies, etc. in order to fully understand what can be exported and how we can get good quality EAD. We have asked for an instance of Modes, as otherwise we are working blind, which is really quite hard! But either way, we hope very much to establish a 'Modes pipeline' to ingest exports.

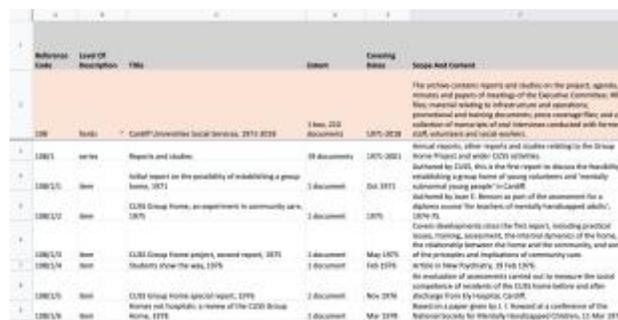Please let us know if you do use Modes and are interested in this work.

For more information on our work taking exports from archival management systems, see our website: https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/archivesystemexport/

Excel/CSV Import

We are well into the work to create a CSV export (in practice, this usually means using Microsoft Excel). Our intention is to create an EAD export from TNA's Discovery template in the first instance, and then build upon that. We would like to develop the template further as we want to ask for some additional information that will help to ensure the data created is useful and re-useable. But it would still follow the basic idea of a simple spreadsheet.

The challenge is mainly around hierarchy, and we are looking to be able to create the hierarchy either through the references used, or through the level values. If we can use the references, then we can ensure that the level values are not changed. We are keen to keep 'series', 'file' and 'item' values as they are because we have a filter by 'collection', 'section' and 'item', and we know people use this filter. TNA don't need these level values, as they don't filter by level, so they have more scope to change level values in order to impose a consistent parent/child hierarchy.

We are also looking at how much work we can do to convert bespoke spreadsheet data into EAD. This is very much a case of looking at individual examples and seeing if we can map them successfully to EAD fields.

4 - TNA template - we aim to work with it, and enhance it with more structure

Webinars

Please make sure you look out on our contributors' list if you are interested in any training sessions this year. We will be announcing dates soon. We aim to provide 1.5 hour sessions on:

- the EAD Editor

- the CIIM

- Exporting from archival management systems

- data structure and names

- using the CSV template (once we are ready with it)

Email us to sign up to our contributors' list: contributors.hub@jisc.ac.uk