

Crowdsourcing Activities at The British Library

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Overview

- The UK SoundMap
- Map your voice
- Georeferencing project
- Pin-a-Tale
- Nominations for the UK Web Archive themed collections
- Wikipedia editathons
- Wikipedian-in-residence

UK SoundMap

The first British Library crowdsourcing project was the UK SoundMap project (<http://sounds.bl.uk/Sound-Maps/UK-Soundmap>), which used crowd-sourcing to build a dataset of soundscapes.

The website featured a nationwide sound map, where members of the public were asked to record sounds from their environment, including home, work and leisure activities, then upload them using an Audioboo (<http://audioboo.fm/>) app on their mobile phone.

Over 2,000 recordings were uploaded by circa 350 contributors from July 2010 to July 2011.

UK SoundMap

There were three main objectives:

- 1) to explore the potential for linked data accumulated by cutting edge apps to build significant resources for digital scholarship at low cost
- 2) to map the evolution of the national soundscape and how people feel about it.
- 3) to involve the public in contributing to British Library acquisitions of research material



ACHIEVEMENT


YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU SET YOUR MIND TO WHEN YOU HAVE VISION,
DETERMINATION, AND AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF EXPENDABLE LABOR.

UK Soundmap



UKSOUNDMAP



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Welcome to our interactive map showing 2167 soundscape recordings contributed so far by members of the public

Latest recordings

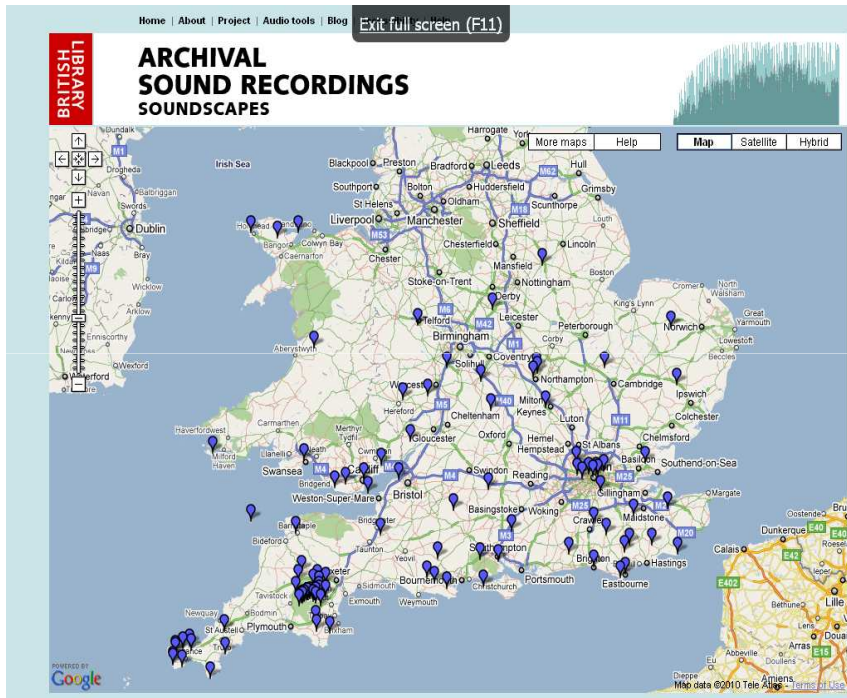
[Narbeth High Street](#) by **FelicityVFord** (Fri, 24 Ju)

[Jam on the roof of Buxton Field Centre during White Label Music&a...](#) by **theponyharvest** (Fri, 24 Ju)

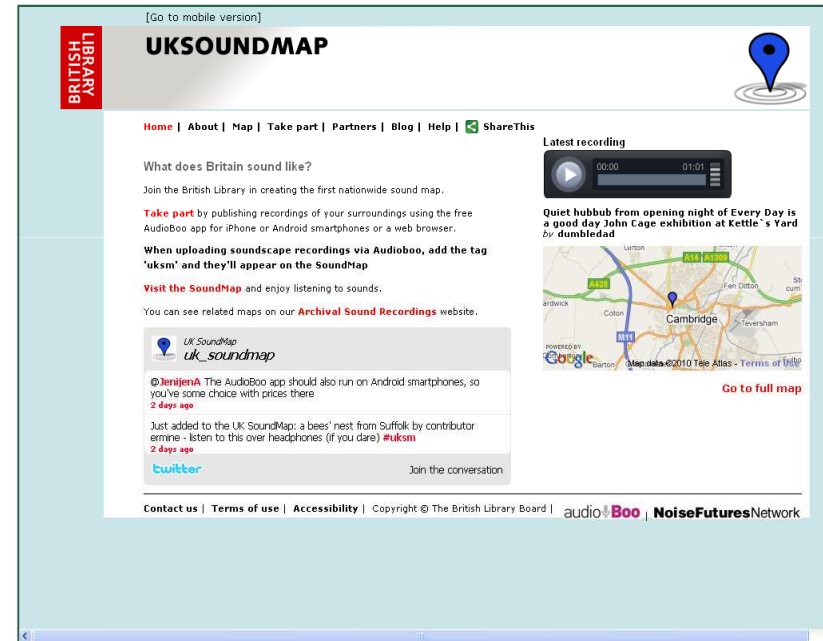
[A helicopter at the top of Roseberry Topping](#) by **FelicityVFord** (Fri, 24 Ju)



UK Soundmap



Several years, £2.5m
 Many hours per recording



Several months, > £15k
 A few minutes per recording

UK Soundmap

The screenshot shows the audioBoo website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'browse', 'channels', 'my profile', 'settings', 'messages', and 'help'. The user 'hello soundmap' is logged in. The profile of 'AndyWatt' is displayed, with a profile picture, name, and statistics: '50 boos / 0 favourites / 10 followers'. There are 'Unfollow', 'iTunes', and 'RSS' buttons. The main content is a post from 28 days ago with the text: 'This was a test recording for my new Zoom H4n recorder where i recorded bees at the bottom of my parents' garden. The quality is excellent and as well as the buzzing, you can even hear the scratching of the bees inside the flower.' Below the text is a video player showing a close-up of a honey bee on a purple flower, with a 'honey bee' label. A map shows the location between 'Sharoe Green' and 'Fulwood'. The video player has a play button, a progress bar at 0:00, and a total duration of 0:31. Below the video are social sharing options: 'Love this? 2', 'Tweet 2', 'Like', and 'Embed'. At the bottom, there are 'Tags' (h4n bees ambient #uksm Zoom H4n), 'Add a Comment', 'Record a Comment', and a 'Next' section for 'Mr Woodnote busking in Birmingham on 9th June 2011'. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows 'Done', 'Internet', and '100%' zoom.

UK Soundmap

The screenshot shows the audioBoo website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search box and links for 'browse', 'channels', 'my profile', 'settings', 'messages', and 'help'. The user 'hello soundmap' is logged in. The main content area features a user profile for FelicityVFord, who has 70 boos, 10 favourites, and 27 followers. Below the profile is a sound recording titled 'Family clock and dishwasher', recorded 8 days ago in Croydon, Greater London, England. The recording player shows a duration of 2:18. To the right of the player is a map showing the recording location on Shirley Church Rd, with a red microphone icon indicating the recording point. Below the recording, there are social sharing options: 'Love this?', 'Tweet' (2), 'Like', and 'Embed'. A comment section is visible at the bottom, with a 'Post' button and a comment that says 'Many thanks as ever, your recording's now on the UK soundmap.' On the right side, there are recommendations for other recordings, such as 'A helicopter at the top of Roseberry Topping' and 'Ballwinder'.

UK Soundmap

The screenshot shows the audioBoo website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links: browse, channels, my profile, settings, messages, help. The user 'hello soundmap' is logged out. The main content area features a user profile for 'sc_r' with a profile picture, 156 boos, 3 favourites, and 22 followers. Below the profile is a sound recording titled '60 seconds of: industrial food equipment auction, Wisbech', recorded 'about 1 month ago' in 'Emneth, Norfolk, England'. The recording player shows a progress bar at 0:00 of 0:59. To the right of the player is a photo of the auction and a map showing the location on 'Emneth High Rd'. Below the player are social sharing options: Love this?, Tweet (1), Like, and Embed. A comment section is visible with a 'Post' button and a comment: 'Another good recording . . . many thanks as ever. Did you buy anything there?' by 'soundmap' from 'about 1 month ago'. On the right side, there are 'Tags' (uksm auction 60seconds Wisbech exciting) and a 'Next' section for '60 seconds of: Woolshops shopping centre car park ticket machine, Halifax'. A 'comment notifications' checkbox is checked.

UK Soundmap

LIBRARY BRITISH

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record 1 of 2 for search **any words or numbers "costa coffee"**

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Costa Coffee, Heathrow T3

Electronic access: [View Audiobook page](#)

Collection title: UK Soundmap

Track title: Costa Coffee, Heathrow T3

Recording notes: macaonghus (recordingist's pseudonym)

Recording date: 2010-09-26T07:43:13Z

Country: Terminal 3, Heathrow airport

Locality: GPS latitude 51.4727; longitude -0.458449

Field recording equi: Mobile 'phone internal mic

Item duration: 0'46"

Holdings

RECORDING	Copies	Material	Location
C1433/0700	1	RECORDING	Electronic

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Local intranet 100%

Map your voice

Evolving English, One Language, Many Voices exhibition asked the public to “Map your voice”

<http://www.bl.uk/evolvingenglish/maplisten.html>

Between November 2010 and April 2011 we asked people from all over the world to submit a recording of their voice.

Contributors could either read a children's story, Mr. Tickle by Roger Hargreaves, or a list of six words. These recordings are being archived at the British Library and made available for linguistic research now and in the future.

Pin-a-tale

The Writing Britain exhibition explores how works of literature from the last 1000 years have been shaped by the country's unique spaces and places.

Curated by the British Library's English and Drama team, 150 items have been selected for display in the physical space but there remain untold numbers of works permeated and influenced by landscapes which should be celebrated.

Pin-a-Tale is an online crowdsourcing initiative to complement the physical exhibition. It seeks the power of the crowd to help surface these hidden materials and connect our individual experiences of writing and place on a searchable map.

Pin-a-tale



Is there a piece of writing that represents a place you know?

Visit <http://writingbritain.bl.uk/>

Pin-a-tale

How pin-a-tale works:

People are requested to choose a literary work from any period and any form (e.g. a novel, a poem, song lyric or a play) that relates to a specific location in the British and Irish Isles.

They should tell us a little about the chosen item and how the author has captured the spirit of the place (e.g. what has changed, what remains the same?) and what it means to them.

Curators' favourite pin-a-tales are displayed in the physical exhibition at the British Library in a digital interactive.

Pin-a-tale

Aims:

Engage the public in thinking about the connection between place and writing and their own lives.

Surface hidden writing with special focus on original works and self-published authors.

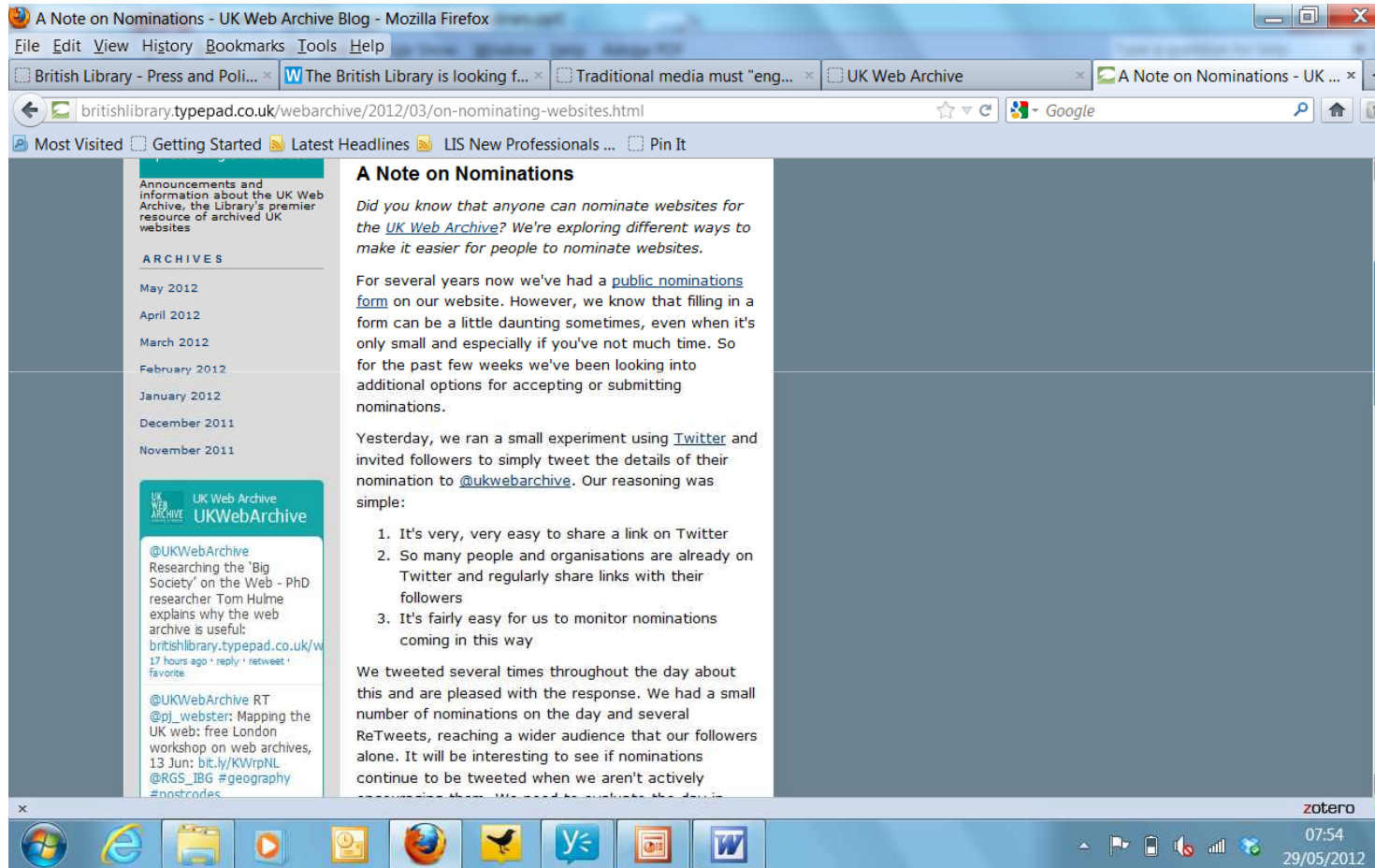
After the close of the exhibition submissions will be added to our digital collections for re-use by future researchers under Creative Commons Dedication. The use of the CC0 dedication means that contributors place no restrictions on any subsequent re-use of the uploaded content and will therefore enable the contributions to be used as part of an aggregated dataset by researchers.

It is envisioned this content will be published as open linked data and will be used as a test dataset for building these skills at the library.

Issues:

Staying within copyright law poses a challenge; quoting from texts is paramount to publishing without consent and contributed images may be under copyright.

Nominations for the UK Web Archive themed collections



<http://www.webarchive.org.uk>

“if the 20th Century was about straight line thinking around commerce, media and communications, the 21st Century will be about a no straight line approach defined as **Engagement** which creates deeper context and greater meaning”

SMLXL Traditional media must engage or die <http://ht.ly/2YKfC>

Wikipedia at the British Library

- Partnership with Wikimedia to support writing about BL topics
 - Held events – editing sessions, tours
 - Supplied resources (eg images)
 - Worked within existing project infrastructure

- Productive results –
 - Many new articles on collections
 - “St. Cuthbert Gospel” had 40,000 pageviews in a single day

- More planned –
 - Residency program

Wikipedia at the British Library

- ...but is it **crowdsourcing**?
- Most content produced “bespoke” by a small number of volunteers
 - Workshops – hands-on editing sessions, ~20-30 people present
 - Individual partnerships with volunteers
 - Built around existing community



