Call for Information

Work with Jisc to digitise 1960s, 70s and 80s alternative and independent press material

Help us create digital collections, for the open web, by proposing UK alternative and underground press magazine titles in two broad subject areas:

* The struggle for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) civil rights and equality in Britain
* Second wave feminism in Britain

In a nutshell

* Independent Voices UK is a new Jisc digitisation initiative supported by an innovative model of library contributions, matched by Jisc funding. A total of £100,000 is available to support digitisation of approximately 80,000-100,000 pages of content, with part of the funding set aside for rights clearance
* The purpose of this Request for Information (RfI) is for Jisc:
  + to gain an idea of the range and type of material available for potential digitisation from HE libraries and small libraries and archives
  + assess the level of interest in this material by the academic community
* Material should have been published in the UK, form part of your physical collections, and not have been previously digitised
* To be considered for digitisation, material must be published between the 1960s and 1990s by non-commercial publishers. The content should focus on issues related to feminism and minority rights. HEI and independent, community libraries and archives can take part in this project (consortia are encouraged)
* Publications should be in a condition which is suitable for digitisation (or be on microform though hardcopy is preferred)
* We are interested in digitising complete runs of publications if possible but recognise that collections of this kind of content might be fragmented
* Following this call, Jisc will evaluate the information provided, work with community members to select the most feasible proposals and then decide how the work should be funded
* Jisc will work with you to clear rights and digitise the material, though you may wish to undertake this work using your own resources under the terms of a grant
* Jisc will deliver the resulting content on its platforms and you will get a copy of the digitised file

The deadline for submitting this information is: 16 March 2018

If you would like your collection considered for digitisation, please give us as much detail as possible by filing in the form in Appendix A. If you would like to discuss your collection and proposal or if you need more information, please email Peter Findlay, Digital portfolio manager ([peter.findlay@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:peter.findlay@jisc.ac.uk))) by 28 February 2018.

Please respond to this call with a covering email, including contact details and the completed form (Appendix A).

Background

Independent Voices

[Jisc](https://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/independent-voices-revealed-for-a-digital-generation-16-nov-2017) (<https://ji.sc/Independent-voices>) is working with [Reveal Digital](http://revealdigital.com/) ([http://revealdigital.com](http://revealdigital.com/))**,** a US based open access publisher, on a project to make independent and alternative press collections available for teaching, learning and research. As part of the [Independent Voices](https://voices.revealdigital.com/cgi-bin/independentvoices?a=cl&cl=CL1&e=-------en-20--1--txt-txIN---------------1) (<https://ji.sc/independent-voices-collection>) collection, Reveal Digital has already digitised 500,000 pages of content in the US by employing a “library crowd-funding” cost recovery-open access approach by which US libraries have contributed to the cost of digitisation of the collections. Access to the resulting collection is restricted to participating libraries until January 2019. In January 2019 the entire collection will be openly available on the public web. The resulting [Independent Voices](https://voices.revealdigital.com/cgi-bin/independentvoices?a=cl&cl=CL1&e=-------en-20--1--txt-txIN---------------1) (IV) (<https://ji.sc/independent-voices-collection)> collection offers a rich melange of underground publication produced by Feminists, dissident GIs, campus radicals and the New Left, Native Americans, anti-war activists, Black Power advocates, Latinos, and members of the LGBT community. Some of titles are already openly available.

Jisc’s Independent Voices UK initiative

Our collaboration with Reveal Digital has made the current IV collection available to UK Higher Education libraries for a fee. By utilising 50% of this fee and by matching the accumulated funds, Jisc now seeks to undertake the **digitisation of material published in the UK**. The material will, once digitised,be made available directly **on public access**.

12 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have purchased early access to Independent Voices. This has led to the accumulation of a limited fund of around £100,000 for digitisation activities, and we may look to identify further funding to digitise more content, if there is interest and demand in the academic community. We would like UK HE libraries and archives as well as non-HE and small independent or community archives/libraries to propose collections of material in two broad subject areas**: post-1950s feminism (second wave) and the struggle for BAME civil rights and equality in Britain**.

We recognise that this is a restricted set of material. We are interested in other categories such as punk zines, community newspapers and material produced by political groups, but we decided to make a start with these categories. We are still interested in hearing about other categories as we hope to continue digitisation once we have made a start with our initial categories.

Online delivery

Content once digitised will be delivered through Jisc infrastructure, where we already provide access to [Spare Rib](https://journalarchives.jisc.ac.uk/britishlibrary/sparerib) (<https://journalarchives.jisc.ac.uk/britishlibrary/sparerib)> magazine. This will ensure a consistent and more efficient approach to delivery. Reveal Digital also hopes to deliver the UK content on its IV platform in the US. Rights will need to be cleared so that the materials can be made available on the open web most likely under a non-commercial Creative Commons licence. Careful evaluation of the intellectual property (IP) rights will form a large part of the project.

Approach

* The approach to this project still needs to be finalised in terms of how exactly it will be conducted, and this call is the first stage towards formalising agreements with partners
* To start with we will prioritise material which is least challenging to digitise and clear rights for. However, this does not mean we don’t want to hear about more challenging material
* The second stage will be about formalising agreements based on what you tell us in the form attached (appendix B) and subsequent discussions
* We anticipate that there will be a mixed approach of local activity, alongside the utilisation of centralised services to enable economies of scale
* We are conscious of the need to engage with communities from which publications originate both from a moral and IP rights point of view. When proposing material for digitisation, can you provide contacts with those in the communities? They will need to be contacted early on and any information about the likelihood of such contact with the community is useful. Jisc will be able to help with community engagement by facilitating meetings and events where the communities can come together, however we will need your involvement in these activities
* We can approach rights owners directly (via a clearance specialist), you can do it independently or we can do it jointly
* We will need to evaluate the likely rights clearance issues with any publications you propose. Some question you might ask are:
  + Is the content largely text based?
  + Are there a lot of Images to be cleared?
  + Can I determine who might own rights in the publication; is there a clear indication who wrote them or who took photographs?
* Where there is no way of attributing them, we will look at collective licensing as a means of clearing material
* At this point we are not providing any boilerplate agreements as examples as we are not at that stage yet. We are likely to engage a clearance specialist, or you may wish to engage one yourself. What we need from you is a high-level assessment of the likely rights issues with the material you are proposing could be digitised and your suggested approach to dealing with it. Initially we will evaluate the information you provide to see if it is broadly fundable. If we do think so, we will be in touch to discuss the rights issues in more detail. You can also find useful information about assessing copyright in the [copyright cortex](https://copyrightcortex.org/copyright-101) (we do not make any claim as to the accuracy of this information)
* Clearances could be undertaken locally as part of the engagement with communities of interest. We are happy to discuss rights issues prior to submission of a proposal
* It is possible that you have resources such as digitisation facilities or that you already have staff who could engage with the community from which content originates and perhaps even clear rights. However, if you don’t have such resources available, we can work with you to undertake these activities. The workflow we agree in stage 2 will need to reflect the approach which is employed
* We may consider other approaches than simply working with one organisation, for example by working with national collecting bodies or perhaps with academic/community ‘curators’. There are already some academics who are acting as an informal advisory group. They will help us with decision making about what to digitise as will those universities which have purchased early access to the US IV material[[1]](#footnote-1)
* It is possible that the digitisation will take place off site or on site with a commercial digitisation partner. Jisc already has relationships with some suppliers and we would coordinate the digitisation activity. Alternatively, you may have other means of undertaking the digitisation locally or with a partner. We will discuss arrangements on a case by case basis as we recognise that each archive or library may want to take a specific approach. We are also considering taking a peripatetic approach to digitisation whereby a contractor might scan in your facilities
* By harnessing central resources and recognising the local context, we will ensure that the variety of content which is likely to emerge from this call can be accommodated in the project
* If we agree off-site digitisation be assured that items will be handled carefully, to minimise risk of damage. A small amount of funding will be available to aid with condition assessment of potential collections, but collections requiring anything other than minor interventions prior to digitisation will need to be excluded. If you can do the digitisation locally then you might be able to consider doing more complex material
* The amount we can digitise will be limited by the amount of copyright material to be cleared but also by the number of publications to be handled
* We recognise that these specialist collections might not be catalogued in detail, but they will need detailed metadata to make them discoverable on the web and to aid rights clearance. We have provided an example of the kind of metadata provided by our partners Reveal Digital in appendix B. If your items are not catalogued in detail can you evaluate how much work will need to be done to make them discoverable? To partake in this project, we will not be able to help you do basic cataloguing, but we do anticipate that some more work will need to be done to bring data up to the point where it can be used as metadata for web delivery
* Note that the selection criteria are necessarily flexible as this is a Rafi call and we have not fully defined all the criteria which will lead to final selection. There are many variables, so we need to be open to a variety of approaches. This learning will inform further work.

Annex A – High level selection criteria

We have established some basic criteria for in scope publications. At this stage we aim to be as inclusive as possible:

* They must be small press publications, have associations with underground/countercultural groups in the UK
* Publications should fall in the categories second wave feminism (3rd wave will be considered) and the struggle for BAME civil rights and racial equality in Britain
* The periodicals should have been published in the UK from the 60s onwards
* The material should be held in the collection of a UK HE Library/Archive or in community-based libraries/archives (ideally there should be an academic relationship between HE and participating community archives)
* As alternative press content varies significantly in format, we realise that some publication will be printed large formats (e.g. newspapers). We are willing to experiment with different formats as this will test our ability to handle a wide variety, but we will not be able to digitise a lot of newsprint in phase 1. We still want to gather information about collections which contain a lot of that kind of material
* Ideally publications should be in full runs and be largely text based (to reduce the rights clearance burden)
* The material needs to be assessed for the potential complexity of copyright clearance: is it largely text based, does it have lots of photographs, does it have a lot of literary or artistic content?
* Clearing rights will rely on contacts within the community and information about rights owners is critical to successful digitisation
* The publication should have relevance to academic research and or teaching and learning
* Material needs to be in a suitable condition for digitisation either onsite in your library or offsite by a specialist supplier, most likely in London
* They should not be unavailable elsewhere in digital form, or at least not currently be in a digital format which is useful for academic purposes e.g. for full text searching, text mining, indexing in digital system e.g. the Library Management System etc
* They need to be catalogued in a standards compliant format (i.e. MARC 21, AACR2 or RDA). You will need to tell us to what degree they have been catalogued and should assess the amount of work which will be required to produce metadata (see example set in appendix B)
* We estimate that we can digitise a maximum of 80,000-100,000 pages in extent (this approximates the total we can initially digitise)

Additional information

There is a lot of material which falls into broad categories such as, countercultural lifestyle magazines, punk zines, publications produced by radical political groups (in the categories we have selected there will undoubtedly be some of these anyway), local alternative newspapers and we are interested in hearing about these. We are also interested in hearing about material such as ephemera, little magazines, zines and newspapers as we may be able to look at working with these in another phase. You can use the additional information section in the form for recording this information

The form in appendix A is to help us gain a response with some structure. Peter Findlay is happy to have informal discussions at any time to aid your proposal. Decisions about funding will be made after further consultation in preparation for stage 2. We do not want to limit ourselves too much yet by setting of an arbitrary budget.

Appendix A

Please provide your contact information in the email accompanying this form.

|  |
| --- |
| Description of proposed collection(s)  *Please provide a summary description of the items proposed for digitisation. The content must be relevant to the categories above (maximum 300 words)* |
|  |
| **List of titles (where it is possible to provide them at this stage)**  *Please provide a summary list. Do they have full runs? We recognise that this may be difficult at this stage, but we require a bit more detail of the kind of publication under consideration to help us assess the likely rights issues and the extent.* ***(maximum 200 words)*** |
|  |
| **Date range and extent and formats**  *When was the material produce? To fit with the selection of US content publications must be post 1960 but we can be flexible if a run starts earlier. How many pages do you estimate in total and in which format are they?*  ***(maximum 200 words)*** |
|  |
| **Communities from where the publications originate and any contacts you have in the community concerned**  *Can you help us contact those who created some of these publications or with communities of interest to help with right clearance? Please tell us about these and indicate if you have networks of contacts who might be able to help us find rights owners but also gain support from those communities. You do not need to provide names at this stage.*  ***(maximum 200 words)*** |
|  |
| **Condition of items and special requirements**  *Describe the overall condition of the items. Items must be in good enough condition to undergo extensive handling during the digitisation process without sustaining damage. Are they tightly bound or have they deteriorated? Please note that extensive conservation work will not be covered by this project’s funding. Are there any special requirements?*  ***(maximum 200 words)*** |
|  |
| **Cataloguing information**  *Classification system used, and what classifications are included. Also detail the cataloguing standards used[[2]](#footnote-2) Ideally, we should have cataloguing down to issue level (we recognise that there may be issue with cataloguing such material) in a common standard such as MARC 21, RDA etc. As material will appear on Reveal Digital website, please see its metadata fields in appendix B.* **(maximum 200 words)** |
|  |
| **Rights**  *This project intends to provide free access to the digital resources. Please tell us what you anticipate being the likely limitations to copyright clearance and reuse. Can you asses the various layers of clearance we might need to undertake?* **(maximum 200 words)** |
|  |
| **Capability and budget requirements**  *At this stage we need to have some indication of your capacity and needs in terms of budget. What you do you need in terms of staff time to undertake this project. What might be the barriers to your participation? Will you require funding to be included to undertake detailed assessment of the materials?* **(maximum 200 words)** |
|  |
| **Do you have staff resource to undertake an initial assessment of the material?** |
| YES / NO  *Please provide some more information (maximum 100 words)* |
| **Do you have digitisation facilities? Please insert a cross or tick** |
| YES / NO  *Please provide some more information (maximum 100 words)* |
| **Do you have rights clearance expertise and staff to undertake the work of clearing rights?** |
| YES / NO  *Please provide some more information (maximum 100 words)* |
| **Do you have staff who could liaise with communities of interest and help Jisc identify rights owners?** |
| YES / NO  *Please provide some more information (maximum 100 words)* |
| **Would you be able to accommodate a small peripatetic scanning service if we provided it?** |
| YES / NO  *Please provide some more information (maximum 100 words)* |
| **Timescale**  *When might you be able to start a digitisation project? We hope to start digitisation in the second half of 2018. Please estimate how long it will take to undertake the work?* **(maximum 200 words)** |
|  |
| **Additional information**  We are interested in finding out more information about material you think should be digitised but which does not fit the current criteria or perhaps has not been catalogued. Please tell us about this material. |
|  |

Jisc, February 2018

Appendix B – Independent Voice website metadata

Here is an example of the kind of metadata we would need to capture.

Publication Name

Volume

Issue

Date

Issue Name

Media Type

Pages

Publisher Name

Place of Publication

Source

Series

1. Those institutions are free to make proposals against this call. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Please note that the project cannot fund the cataloguing of uncatalogued material. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)