



University  
of Glasgow

# The Centenary's digital legacy

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WORLD  
CHANGING  
GLASGOW

THE AWARDS  
2020 | UNIVERSITY  
OF THE YEAR



# RESEARCH PROJECTS IN DIGITAL HISTORY



PI (2011-13): Rhyfel Byd 1914-1918 a'r profiad Cymreig / Welsh experience of World War One 1914-1918.  
JISC e-Content Programme, Mass Digitization



Partner: Europeana DSI2 and DSI3  
Chair (2016-): Europeana Research Advisory Board



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

Co-I (2014-19): Centre for Research and Engagement, Centenary of the First World War  
AHRC Connected Communities Programme



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

Co-I (2019-21): Reflections on the Centenary of the First World War: Learning and Legacies for the Future.  
AHRC Major Awards



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

PI: First World War Belgian Refugees and Infrastructures for Linking Digital Histories: WW1\_BRILDH



## BACKGROUND

### COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR: A DIGITAL 'BIG BANG'

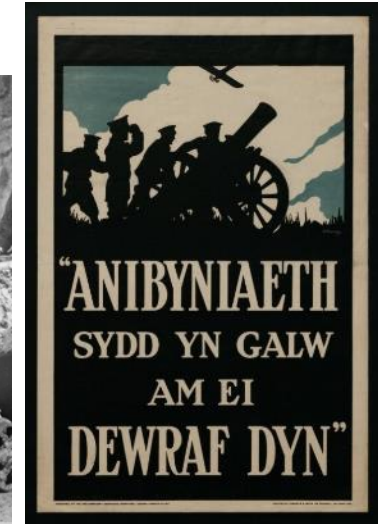
Significant digital outputs: the period from 1914-19 has greater digital coverage than any other historical period, and offers a template for future commemorations

Numerous digital archives/databases/websites: UK resources include Jisc; AHRC; and Heritage Lottery Fund 'First World War: Then and Now' projects

*Extensive use of crowdsourcing, and community generated digital content approaches, and public engagement*



<http://www.walesremembers.org/>  
<http://cymru1914.org>



[Hughes, L. M.](#) and [Anderson, I. G.](#) (2020) [Centenary \(Internet\)](#). In: Daniel, U., Gatrell, P., Janz, O., Jones, H., Keene, J., Kramer, A. and Nasson, B. (eds.) 1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War. Freie Universität Berlin: Berlin. (doi:[10.15463/ie1418.11490](https://doi.org/10.15463/ie1418.11490))

- AHRC Living Legacies Centre 1914-18 Engagement Centre, 2014-19  
Assessment and analysis of FWW HLF projects and their datasets, identifying challenges for long-term preservation: Sustainability of Digital Resources Framework (SDRF)  
Develop guidelines for user community
- Reflections on the Centenary 2019-21  
Understand policy implications of recommendations and interventions in key digital sustainability issues  
Scope existing and emerging digital sustainability 'pathways', including organisations and services, and their potential and limitations
- Ongoing research  
The information lifecycle of Community Generated Digital Content (CGDC) and its digital futures

# **SUSTAINABILITY OF DIGITAL RESOURCES FRAMEWORK (SDRF) OF FIRST WORLD WAR COMMUNITY PROJECTS WITH DIGITAL OUTPUTS**

## Context

- Review of 41 HLF-funded projects across the UK with digital outputs
- Variability in size, funding received, scope and types of digital output produced
- Data collected through a variety of methods: questionnaires, direct observation / desk research and analytics tools (webometrics, referrer analysis, social media tools).
- NOT an evaluation of project quality or achievement!
- Results available: *Digital Sustainability Review of HLF-funded projects*  
<http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/213440/>

Sustainability assessment dimensions	CONTENT	TECHNOLOGY	PRESERVATION	PROMOTION
Assessment criteria & Indicators	<p><b>Currency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates</li> <li>• Current status</li> </ul> <p><b>Relevance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project objectives</li> <li>• Project history</li> <li>• Audience</li> <li>• Value</li> </ul> <p><b>Authority</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation details</li> <li>• Ownership</li> <li>• Partners</li> <li>• Agreements</li> <li>• Ongoing support</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability and location</li> <li>• Impact</li> </ul>	<p><b>Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type</li> <li>• Development platform</li> </ul> <p><b>Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility</li> <li>• Planning</li> </ul> <p><b>Usability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Browsing</li> </ul> <p><b>Findability &amp; Optimisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Searching</li> <li>• Green</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ongoing support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Staff</li> </ul> <p><b>Best practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation</li> <li>• File formats</li> <li>• Persistent identifiers</li> <li>• Web harvesting &amp; archiving</li> </ul> <p><b>IPR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copyright</li> <li>• Trademarks</li> <li>• Terms &amp; Conditions / Disclaimers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Channels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Documents</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Web</li> <li>• Public media</li> </ul>

- Each dimension further stratified into: Assessment Criteria → Indicators → Metrics
- 55 metrics to assess sustainability across all dimensions
- Projects assessed across all four dimensions, with weighting attached
- Broad definition of sustainability, which considers Preservation as one dimension
- Content, Technology and Promotion dimensions examined to holistically explore FWW commemoration materials as part of digital ecosystems

# SDRF IMPLEMENTATION

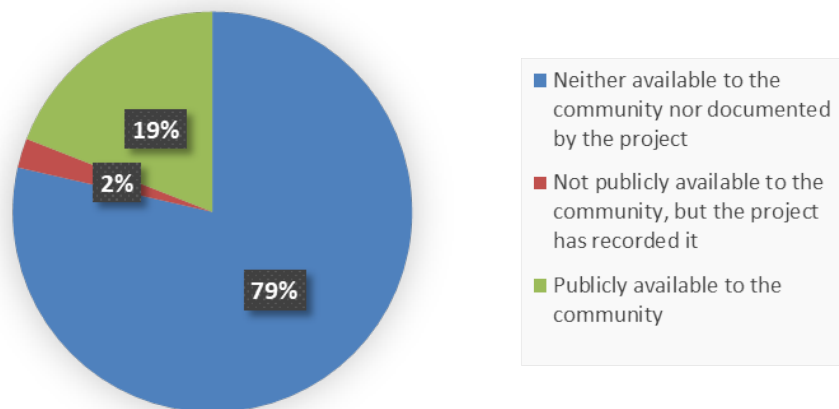
Summary results across 41 projects

	Score / 100 per Dimension			
	CONTENT	TECHNOLOGY	PRESERVATION	PROMOTION
Average scores %	56	42	1	6

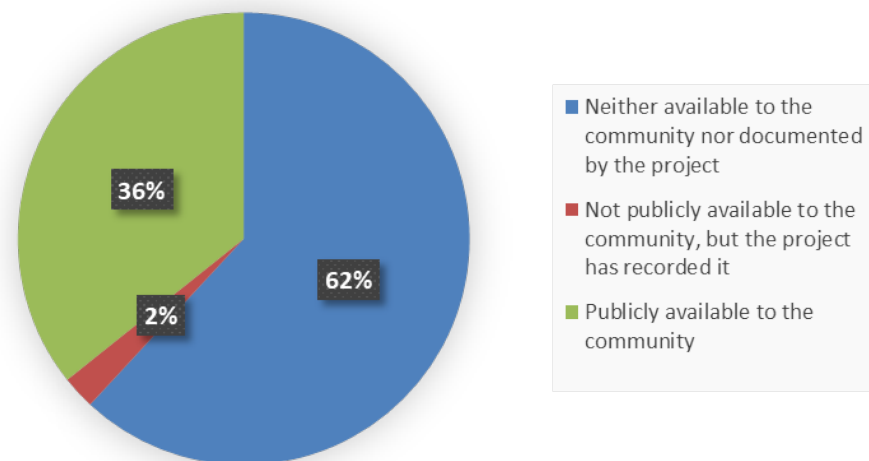
# SDRF IMPLEMENTATION

## CONTENT SUSTAINABILITY EVALUATION RESULTS

The value that the digital content aims to provide to the community



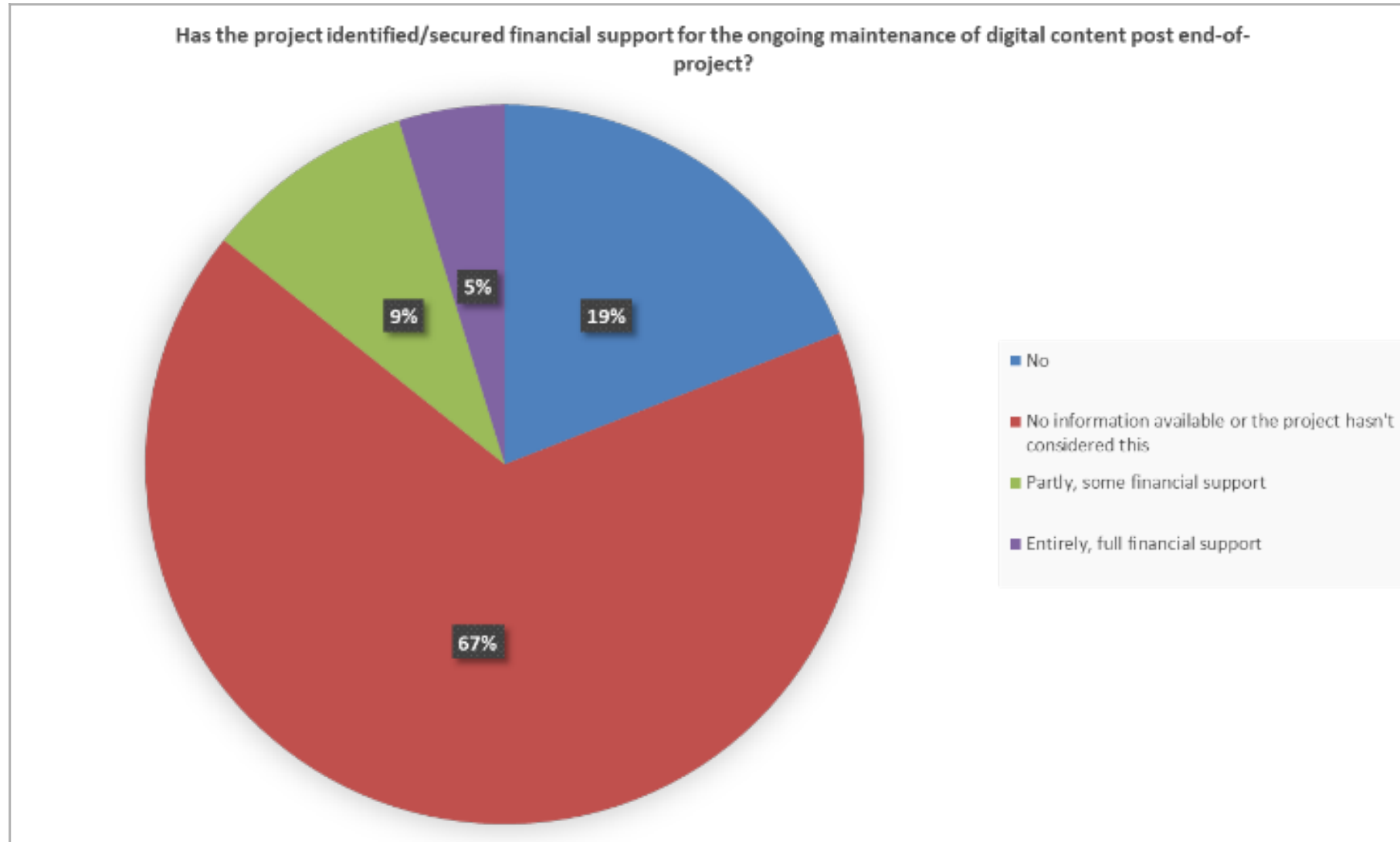
Information about the ownership of the digital content





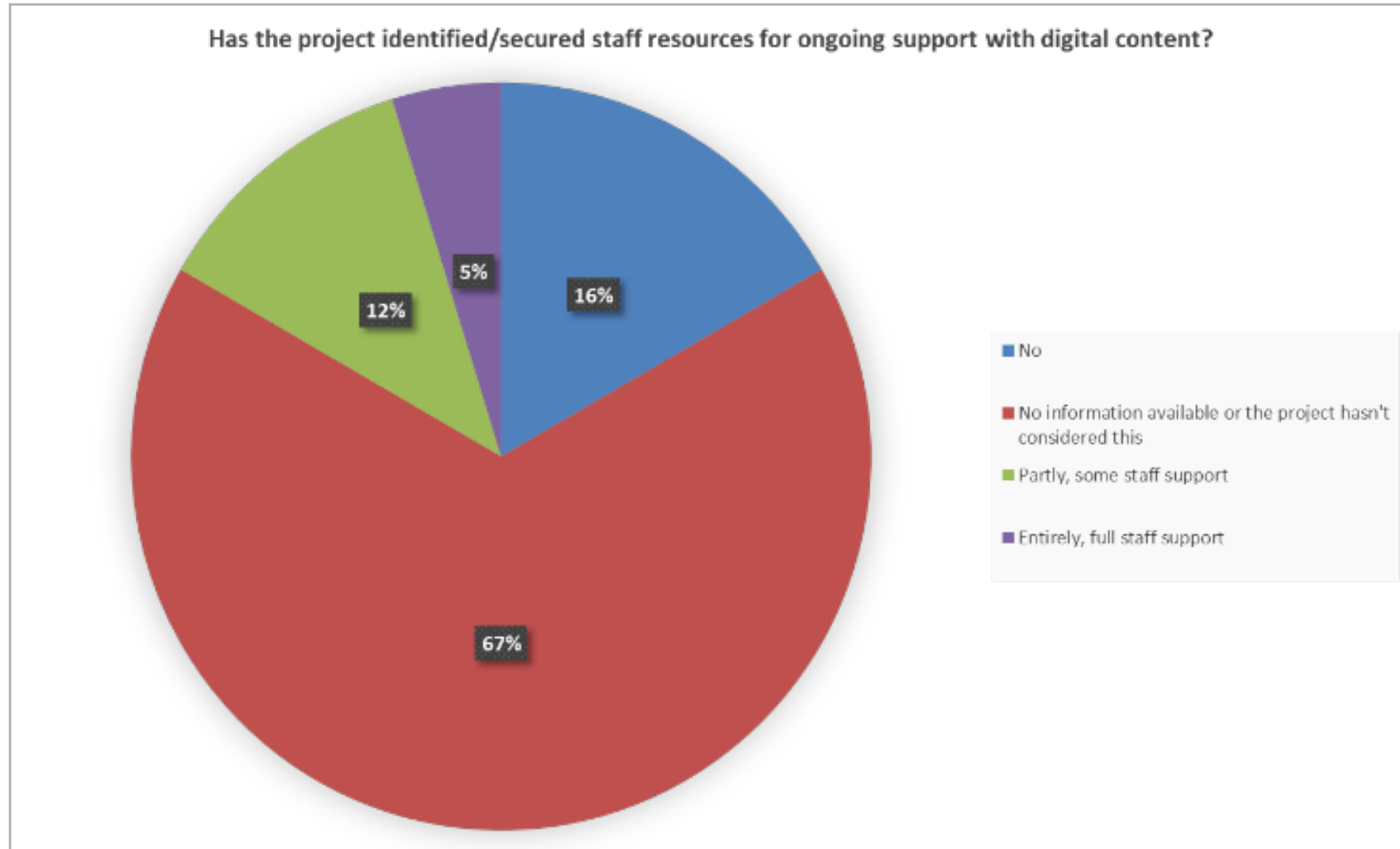
# SDRF IMPLEMENTATION

## DIGITAL PRESERVATION EVALUATION RESULTS



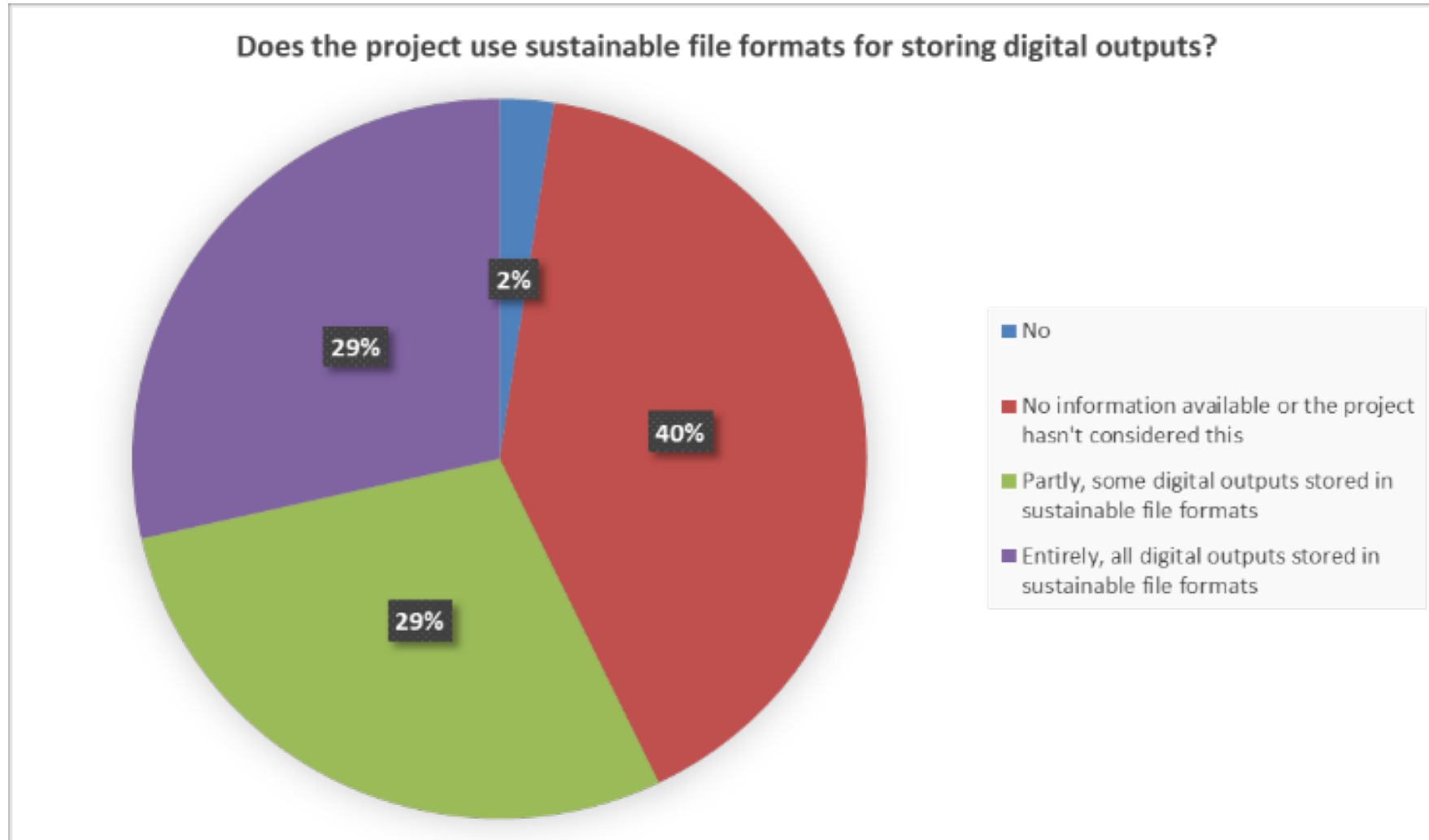
# SDRF IMPLEMENTATION

## DIGITAL PRESERVATION EVALUATION RESULTS



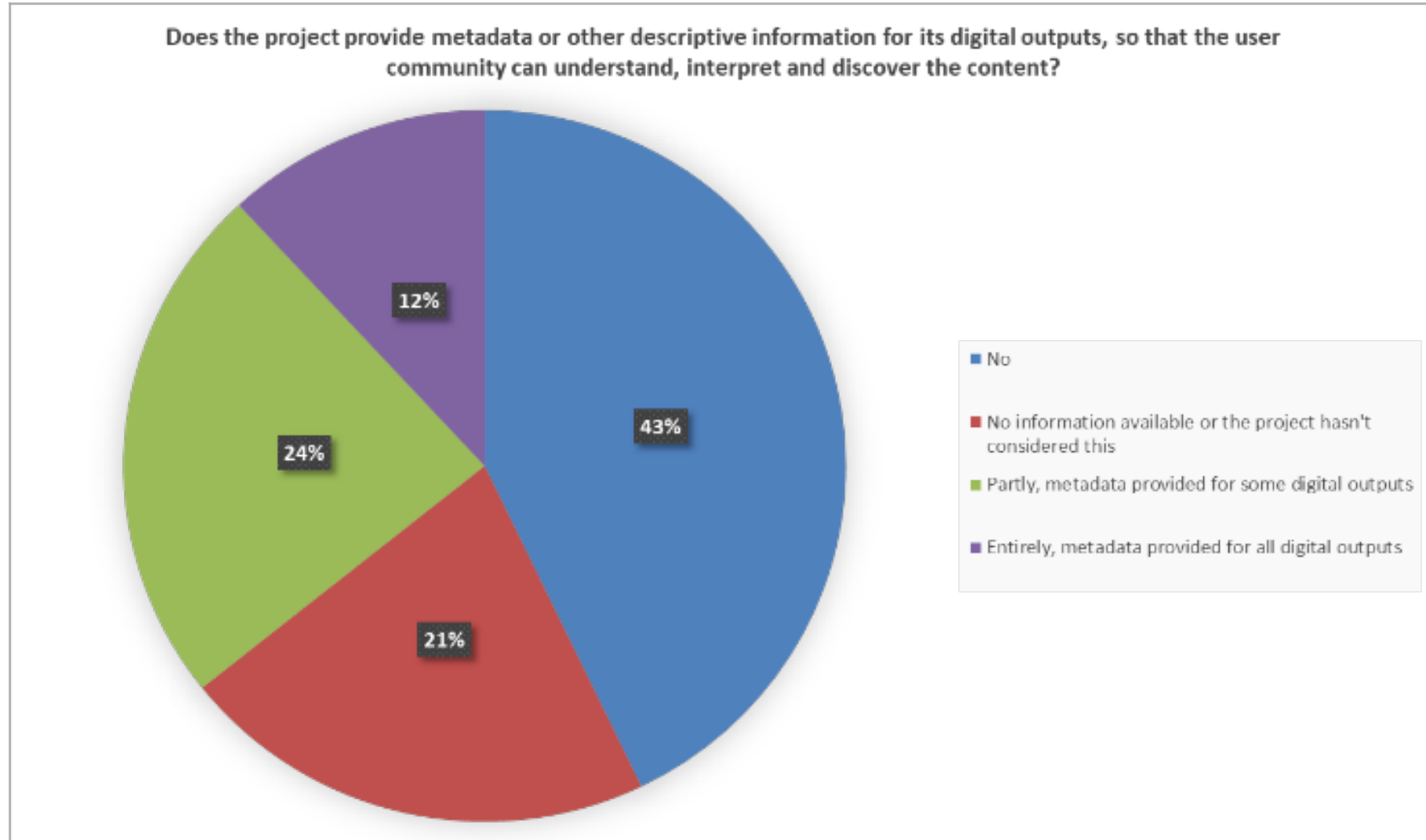
# SDRF IMPLEMENTATION

## DIGITAL PRESERVATION EVALUATION RESULTS



# SDRF IMPLEMENTATION

## DIGITAL PRESERVATION EVALUATION RESULTS





## **SAVING THE CENTENARY'S DIGITAL HERITAGE**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY OF FWW COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES**



Agiatis Benardou  
Lorna Hughes  
Leo Konstantelos

Open access:

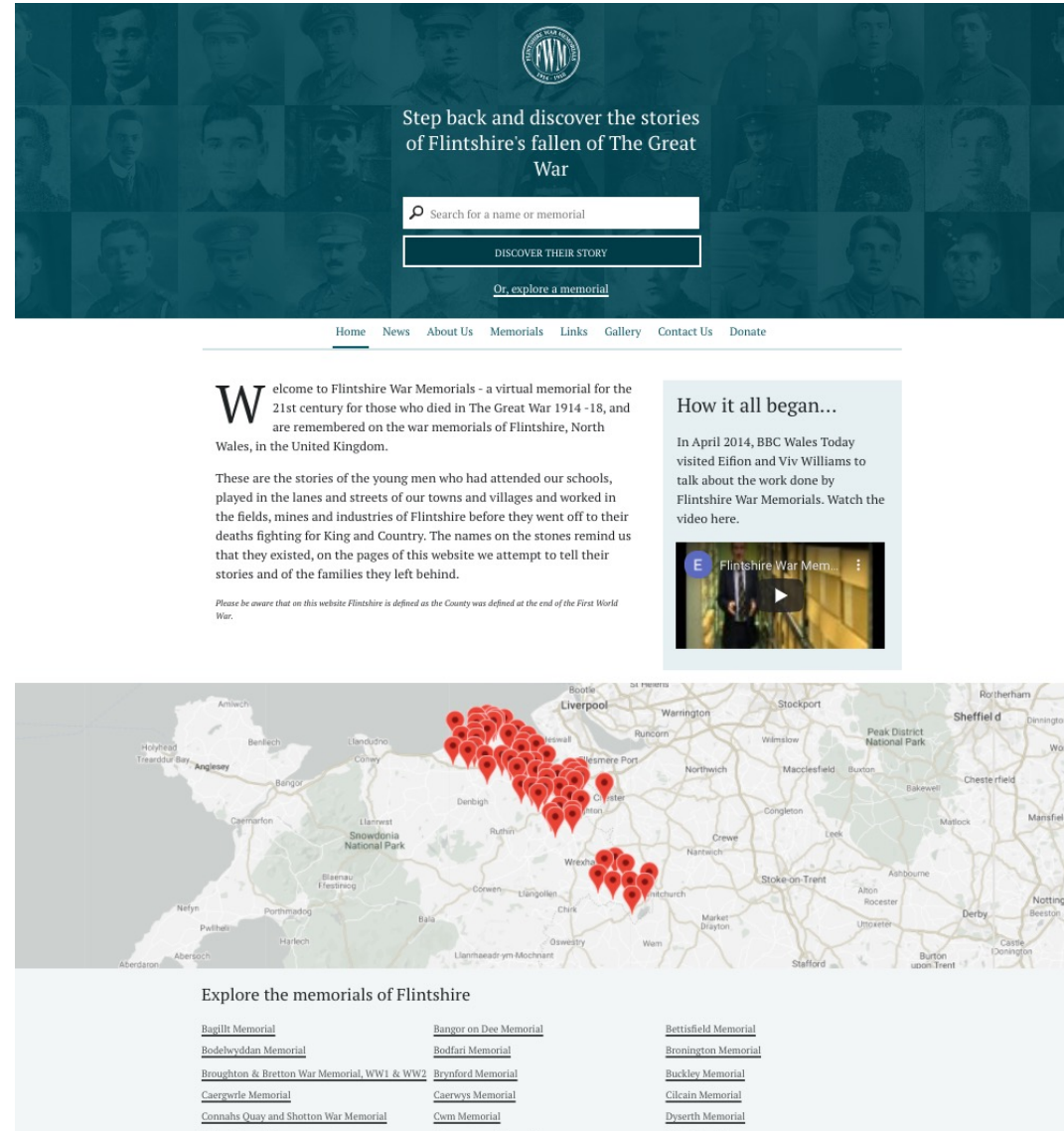
<http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/190714/>

Also disseminated via IWM War and  
Conflict Subject Network

[https://www.iwm.org.uk/partnerships/  
/subject-specialist-network](https://www.iwm.org.uk/partnerships/subject-specialist-network)

# COMMUNITY GENERATED DIGITAL CONTENT (CGDC)

- Flintshire War Memorials
- Funded by HLF
- Volunteer run
- Based on community input
- <https://www.flintshirewarmemorials.com/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Flintshire War Memorials website. The header features a grid of historical portraits and the text "Step back and discover the stories of Flintshire's fallen of The Great War". Below this is a search bar with the placeholder "Search for a name or memorial" and a "DISCOVER THEIR STORY" button. A link "Or, explore a memorial" is also present. The navigation menu includes Home, News, About Us, Memorials, Links, Gallery, Contact Us, and Donate.

**Welcome to Flintshire War Memorials - a virtual memorial for the 21st century for those who died in The Great War 1914 -18, and are remembered on the war memorials of Flintshire, North Wales, in the United Kingdom.**

These are the stories of the young men who had attended our schools, played in the lanes and streets of our towns and villages and worked in the fields, mines and industries of Flintshire before they went off to their deaths fighting for King and Country. The names on the stones remind us that they existed, on the pages of this website we attempt to tell their stories and of the families they left behind.

*Please be aware that on this website Flintshire is defined as the County was defined at the end of the First World War.*

**How it all began...**

In April 2014, BBC Wales Today visited Eifion and Viv Williams to talk about the work done by Flintshire War Memorials. Watch the video here.

**Explore the memorials of Flintshire**

<a href="#">Bagillt Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Bangor on Dee Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Bettisfield Memorial</a>
<a href="#">Bodelwyddan Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Bodfari Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Bronington Memorial</a>
<a href="#">Broughton &amp; Bretton War Memorial, WW1 &amp; WW2</a>	<a href="#">Brynford Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Buckley Memorial</a>
<a href="#">Caerwrele Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Caerwys Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Cilcain Memorial</a>
<a href="#">Connahs Quay and Shotton War Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Cwm Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Dyserth Memorial</a>

## COMMUNITY GENERATED DIGITAL CONTENT (CGDC)



NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service  
Tele-  
Thistle, Edinburgh.

Dear Dr Philip,

2 ST ANDREW SQUARE,  
EDINBURGH, 8th December, 1914.

Dr Hutchison has opened her Hospital under Dr Depage in Calais. Dr Sharp, who was to have gone, wires that she cannot leave till after January. Under these circumstances would you be willing to go over at once ? Of course if you like the work, and get on with Dr Hutchison, you could stay on and Dr Sharp would then have to go elsewhere. I know you are ready, and have got your uniform, which is fortunate. Have you a passport? How soon can you go? Please wire.

Yours/  
Of course you will not go without feeling

Mary 'Eppynt' Phillips: Ran field hospitals in Calais, Valjevo, & Ajacci, 1914-17; content provided by a relative in Brecon at a community digitization workshop run by Cymru1914.org and the People's Collection Wales

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/collections/430174>



# COMMUNITY GENERATED DIGITAL CONTENT (CGDC)

## LIVING LEGACIES

1914-18

## FROM PAST CONFLICT TO SHARED FUTURE



Libraries NI and Living Legacies 1914-18 present

### West Ulster and World War 1

Libraries NI, Living Legacies 1914-18 and Live and Learn invite you to join them to explore the stories of local doctors, nurses and volunteers during World War 1 at the **Molton Centre for Migration Studies** at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh on -

**Wednesday 25 March**  
**1:00pm - 4:00pm**  
**1:00pm - 1:15pm** Welcome and introduction with Joanne Devlin-Trean, UL and Páircéil Páircéil MC46  
**1:15pm - 1:45pm** The scrapbook as source: a consideration of that created by Nurse Drought with Rosam Crooke, UL and Peter Archdale  
**1:45pm - 2:00pm** Bella Dixon's Serbian journey with Aislin Clavin, Derry-based group  
**2:00pm - 2:45pm** Sisters in both senses: using drama methods to explore the role of nurses in WW1 with Brenda Winter-Palmer and actors from OUI  
**3:15pm - 4:00pm** From Plumbridge to Pau: Tyrone UVF nurses in France with Claire McElhinney and Amanda Porter

**Ask staff for details**  
 1 088 820 0510  
 e: chris@livinglegacies.org.uk

Derry Central Library presents

### Family History Fair with Living Legacies 1914 - 1918

## WW1 AND YOU

Objects, Memories, Resources

Libraries NI and Living Legacies 1914 - 1918 invite you to explore your WW1 ancestors, to record and preserve their stories and memorabilia for the future.

Bring your WW1 objects and artefacts (photographs, letters, diaries etc.) to Derry Central Library on

**Thursday 23 October 10:30am - 4:00pm**

**Ask staff for details** t: 029 7127 2310 e: derrycentral.library@librariesni.org.uk

The Living Legacies 1914 - 1918 Engagement Centre is a local point for connecting academic and community researchers interested in how the First World War has on in the twenty-first century world. Discover new free online resources through search at the New Room.

To see more from the Living Legacies 1914 - 1918 see: [www.livinglegacies.org.uk](http://www.livinglegacies.org.uk)

Living Legacies 1914-18

### OBITUARY

#### Mr. ABEL ANGUS

*Veteran of First War*

A WELL-KNOWN and greatly respected townman, Mr. Abel Angus, passed away peacefully at Ards Hospital on 7th February. He was 75 years of age and had been in failing health for several months past.

A veteran of the 1914-18 Great War, he joined the 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles on 17th September, 1914 and served in various theatres of operation until the conclusion of hostilities and had the rank of lance-corporal.

Afterwards he joined the "B" Special Constabulary and had 37 years' service. He was a member of the Royal British Legion, Donaghadee Branch, and of the 13th Battalion R.I.R. Old Comrades' Association.

Mr. Angus is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sarah Angus, a daughter, Mrs. Ella Osborne, and one grandson, Anthony, also by two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Pritchard in England and Mrs. Katie Lelley in Donaghadee. To these, with all other relatives, deep sympathy is extended.

The funeral, which took place from his late residence, 44 East Street, Donaghadee, on Thursday afternoon at Donaghadee New Cemetery, was attended by a large number of friends and townspeople, also by officials and members of the British Legion and his former colleagues in the "B" Specials. There were about 25 beautiful floral tributes from relatives and included one from the friends and neighbours, one from the Legion and one from members of Shore Street Presbyterian Indoor Bowling Club.

The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and covered with family wreaths.

Rev. J. E. Glenfield, B.A., minister of Shore Street Presbyterian Church, conducted the services in the home and at the graveside.



Belgian Refugees in Europeana 14-18



## **SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES IN COMMUNITY GENERATED DIGITAL CONTENT (CGDC) RELATING TO THE PERIOD OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

- CGDC is defined as *digitized historical materials from personal collections , collected through community digitization engagement initiatives and activities, especially open workshops*
- FWW related CGDC was collected in key international initiatives, including over 250k items in Europeana 14-18: evaluation has shown great value of the experience of creating this data
- A separate research project (interviews and observation) has shown there are significant questions about how this content can be shared, used, re-used, and linked for analysis.
- Research on sustainability, use and re-use of this content - and the limitations that inhibit this - draws together digital humanities and (community) archival theory
- Results show that all aspects of the digital life-cycle affect the likelihood of sustainability and re-use, including the dynamics and challenges of its creation, curation, management, and use.
- Sustainability is an expectation, not a reality: reliance on open/public curation is optimistic

- What is the use and reuse of CGDC after the data is collected and made accessible?
  - Many GCDG projects did not intend research as the end goal: these resources were developed with the objective to mobilise communities; to stir and engage.
  - Their legacy: a corpus of heterogeneous data that cannot be used beyond the end of the project
  - CGDC is poorly theorised, and falls into a gap between research on community archives (e.g., Flinn) and digital community archives (e.g., Webb): existing research focuses on born digital sources (Usenet, Ceefax) rather than hybrid digitised collections
- Is this another orphan 'community archive' – only digital?
  - Parallel with (digital) community archives: GCDG is effectively 'orphan' content – poor likelihood of digital sustainability raises similar challenges of post-custodial care.
  - Fragile sustainability of CGDC negatively affects its value to participants. The interplay of participant value and future sustainability should be recognised.

# Community Generated Content and the BitList

## Community-generated Content in Arts and Heritage

'Digital materials produced and shared in the by ad-hoc community art and heritage projects, typically through digitization, where the creation of digital materials was a significant purpose of the initiative.'

Examples: World War One Centennial, Olympic Games, Cities of Culture

- Critically Endangered which is the second highest rating
- Action Recommended within 12 months and assessment a priority
- Practically Extinct in the presence of aggravating conditions



<b>Community-generated Content in Arts and Heritage</b> Digital materials produced and shared in the by ad-hoc community art and heritage projects, typically through digitization, where the creation of digital materials was a significant purpose of the initiative.		
Group: Community Archives	Trend: New Entry	Consensus Decision
Added to List: 2019	Last update: 2019	Previous category: New Entry
<b>Imminence of Action</b> Action is recommended within 12 months, detailed assessment is now a priority	<b>Significance of Loss</b> The loss of tools, data or services within this group would impact on people and sectors around the world.	<b>Effort to Preserve</b> It would require a major effort to prevent losses in this group, such as the development of new preservation tools or techniques.
<b>Examples</b> Locally organised programmes associated with public remembrance and celebration such as World War One centennial commemorations; City of Culture; Olympic Games; World Cup		
<b>'Practically Extinct' in the Presence of Aggravating Conditions</b> Poor documentation; lack of replication; lack of continuity funding; lack of residual mechanism. dependence on small number of volunteers; lack of preservation mandate; lack of preservation thinking at the outset; failure of digital legacy planning; conflation of backup with preservation; conflation of access and preservation; inaccessible to web archiving		
<b>'Endangered' in the Presence of Good Practice</b> Residual archive with residual funding able to receive and support collections; strict adherence to digitization guidelines; quality assurance; active user community; intellectual property managed to enable preservation.		
<b>2019 Review</b> The jury created this entry in 2019 as a subset of 'Community Archives and Community-Generated Content' which has been split into two to provide greater specificity in recommendations.		
<b>Additional Jury Comments</b> Local archives address these collections on an ad hoc basis.		
This entry has a high 'star quality' because it provides cultural insights into parts of society not addressed by collecting policies with a focus on the famous.		
Difficult to state whether national or international impact since it largely depends on the content and how widely it is used. I think this also depends on the identity group represented by the community group such as events around Black History Month.		
Loss seems likely because of the precarity of the funding streams, of lack thereof, for these projects. Once digitisation has been carried out, many projects do not know what to do with them or have the means to make them accessible. Often a lack of understanding of copyright is barrier to sharing.		



## **REFLECTING ON THE DIGITAL LEGACY OF THE FWW CENTENARY: LESSONS LEARNED FOR CGDC**

- Guidelines exist: HLF (Heritage Fund), UofG – but they are not implemented
- There is little understanding among communities and funders of existing pathways to, or endowment of digital sustainability (UK web archive, People's Collection Wales, etc.)
- Co-creation with Universities has not created a sustainable body of digital content
- Involvement of heritage organisations can support digital preservation: National Archives, PRONI, National Libraries: these relationships can support post-custodial models of curation
- Funding agencies need to engage with this at the start: future anniversaries under threat:, e.g., WW2, USA 2026
- *We have invested in the digitisation of culture but we are still learning about the culture of digitisation*





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# Thank you!

- Lorna M. Hughes
- @lornamhughes

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