

## **Historical Research Methods for the 21st Century**

The online publication/book seeks to bridge a gap in provision in UK Higher Education revealed by research undertaken by the UK Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for History, Classics and Archaeology, and the Association for History and Computing which shows that ICT Training for Historians is somewhat patchy across UK Higher Education. The reasons for this are quite simple in that the range of skills required to teach historical ICT are not readily available in many history departments. Consequently departments, except for a handful of specialist ones, tend to rely on often inadequate (inadequate for the needs of history that is) support services for ICT provision. The aim of this book then is to support the provision of modern historical methods training especially where ICT is involved. The scope of the book is introductory but positioned between the excellent introductory text by Sonja Cameron and Sarah Richardson and more specialised texts, in that it moves the introduction to another level by introducing more sophisticated methods and tools and points those interested in developing particular methods to more advanced texts.

The resulting text could be used by:

- Individuals – to explore a particular method, to expand ones knowledge of modern techniques or to assess the potential of a methodology for a new project
- Students – to explore modern methods for use in dissertation work or for postgraduate research
- Staff Developers – to help Academic Staff update their skills
- Academic Staff – to provide a foundation for teaching modern methods without having to have a broad expertise.
- Local historians and those wishing to update their knowledge or research skills.

Academic Staff for example could base a module around the content of the book but use data which they are more familiar with in some of the exercises. This could be followed by an exercise in which students could begin developing a topic area of their own. Assessment could consist of a portfolio containing evidence and commentary on the exercises and the final exercise.

### **Content:**

#### **Section 1 Theory**

- The Role of Theory - Sarah Richardson

#### **Section 2 Practical Research Tools**

- Google Book Search - Chris Banham
- Searching TNA - Louise Craven and Jone Garmendia
- Your Archives: The National Archives wiki - Ruth Selman
- Using Historical Data Collections - Richard Deswarte & Mathew Woollard
- Digital Representation - Ian Anderson
- Web 2.0 - Richard Hall
- Historical Mapping - Gren Hatton

#### **Section 3 Research Methods and Resources**

- Prosopography - Katherine Keats-Rohan
- Population Studies - Mark Freeman
- GIS - TBA [Ian Gregory?]
- Local Studies - Sarah Richardson
- Sound Archives - Rob Perks National Sound Archives
- Visual Archives - Linda Kaye
- Text Mining - Mark Greengrass
- Data Warehousing/OLAP - Janet Delve & Richard Healey
- Statistical Analysis TBA [Mark Freeman?]