Identifying quality acquisitions from a data deluge

Zoe Bliss
AHDS History
May 2005
• Background
• Identifying potential acquisitions
• Ensuring offers of deposit
• Collection priorities
• Acquisitions review
• Evaluation of potential deposits
• Competing demands
• Conclusions
Background

- 1990 – Feasibility study

- 1993 – History Data Unit

- 1996 – History Data Service
  Part of Arts and Humanities Data Service AHDS (hosted by the UK Data Archive, University of Essex).

- 2003 – AHDS History
Identifying potential acquisitions

• Surveys
• Funding bodies: AHRC, ESRC and British Academy
• Offers from data creators
• Strategic Relationships
• Recommendations
• Personal contacts
Ensuring offers of deposit

• Requirement to deposit
• AHRC Technical Appendix assessment
• AHRC requirement to contact AHDS
• Project start up Workshop

Risk management and contingency planning Workflow
Case study on the Fine Art project
Digital sustainability Case study on utilising third party datasets
Why both digitising? Websites in an Academic Environment
Collection Priorities (1996)

- Community histories
- Wages and price time series
- Nineteenth-century censuses
- British historical statistics
- Digitised boundary data

- History of childhood
- Crusades
- Material culture
- Elections
- Film history
- History of education
- Imperial history
- Local and regional history
- Maritime history
- History of Poverty
- Wages and Prices
Competing demands

- Creator
- Research needs
- Scholarly recognition
- Licences
- Levels of Access
- Processing
- File formats
- Capacity
- Targets
- AHDS

- Preservation
- Access
- Quality
- Users
- Funders
- Value for money
- Research needs

- Identification
- Evaluation
- Deposit
- Collection
Conclusions

- Technical Quality
- Usability
- Potential for re-use
- Publicly funded projects - offered
- Thematic core collections
- Directed and pro-active
- Pragmatic
- Flexible

http://ahds.ac.uk/history/index.htm