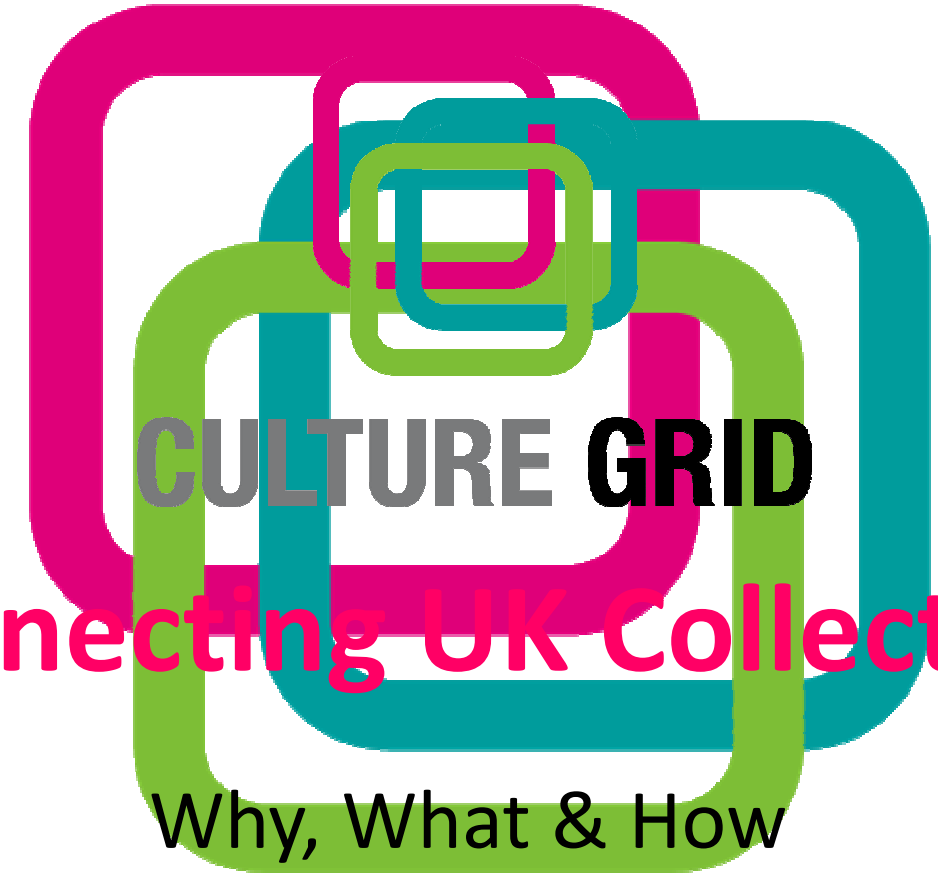


Connecting UK Collections

Why, What & How

Rome – February 2011

CULTURE GRID

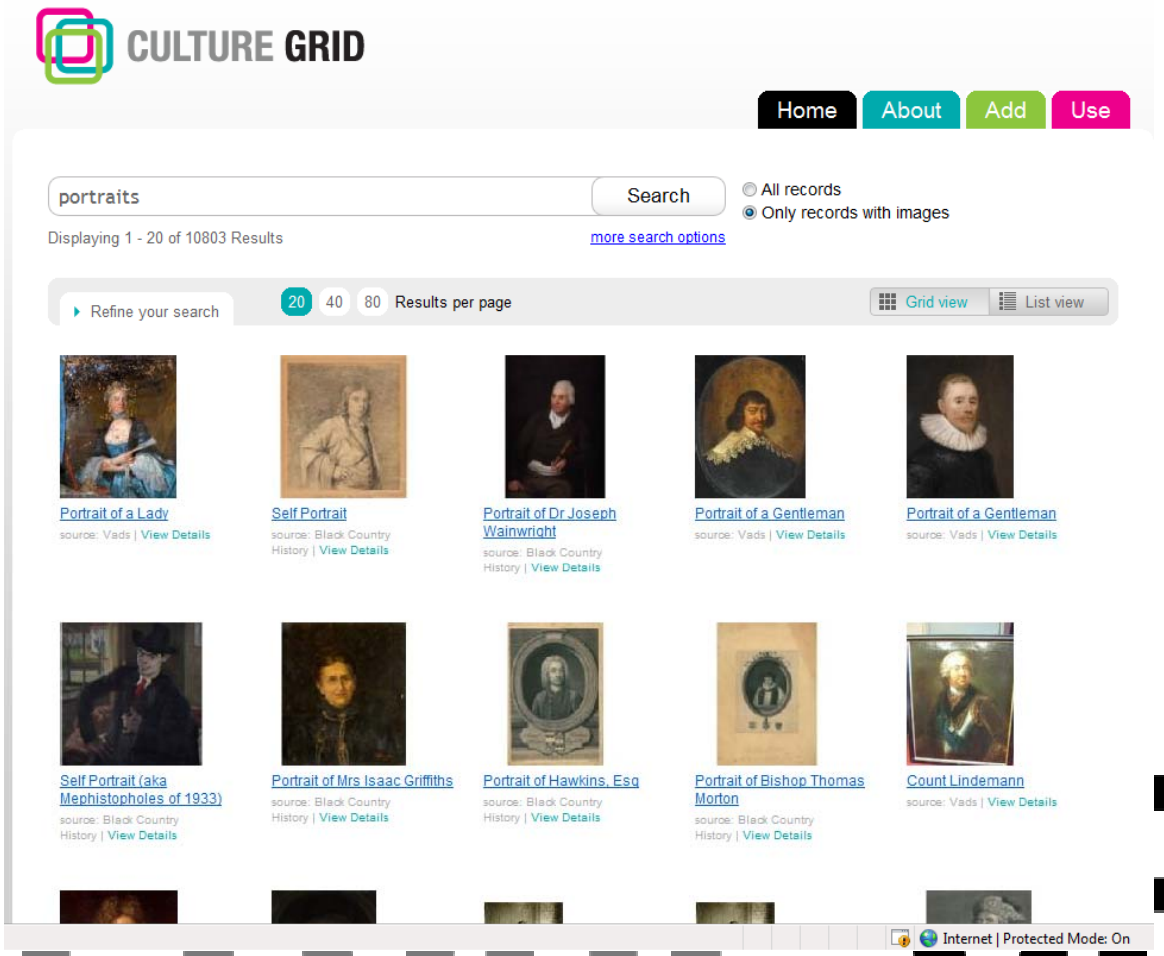
Why have a Culture Grid?

To easily connect collections information to:

- More people in more ways for more use
- Other collections, e.g. on a regional or thematic basis
- Other services, e.g. Europeana

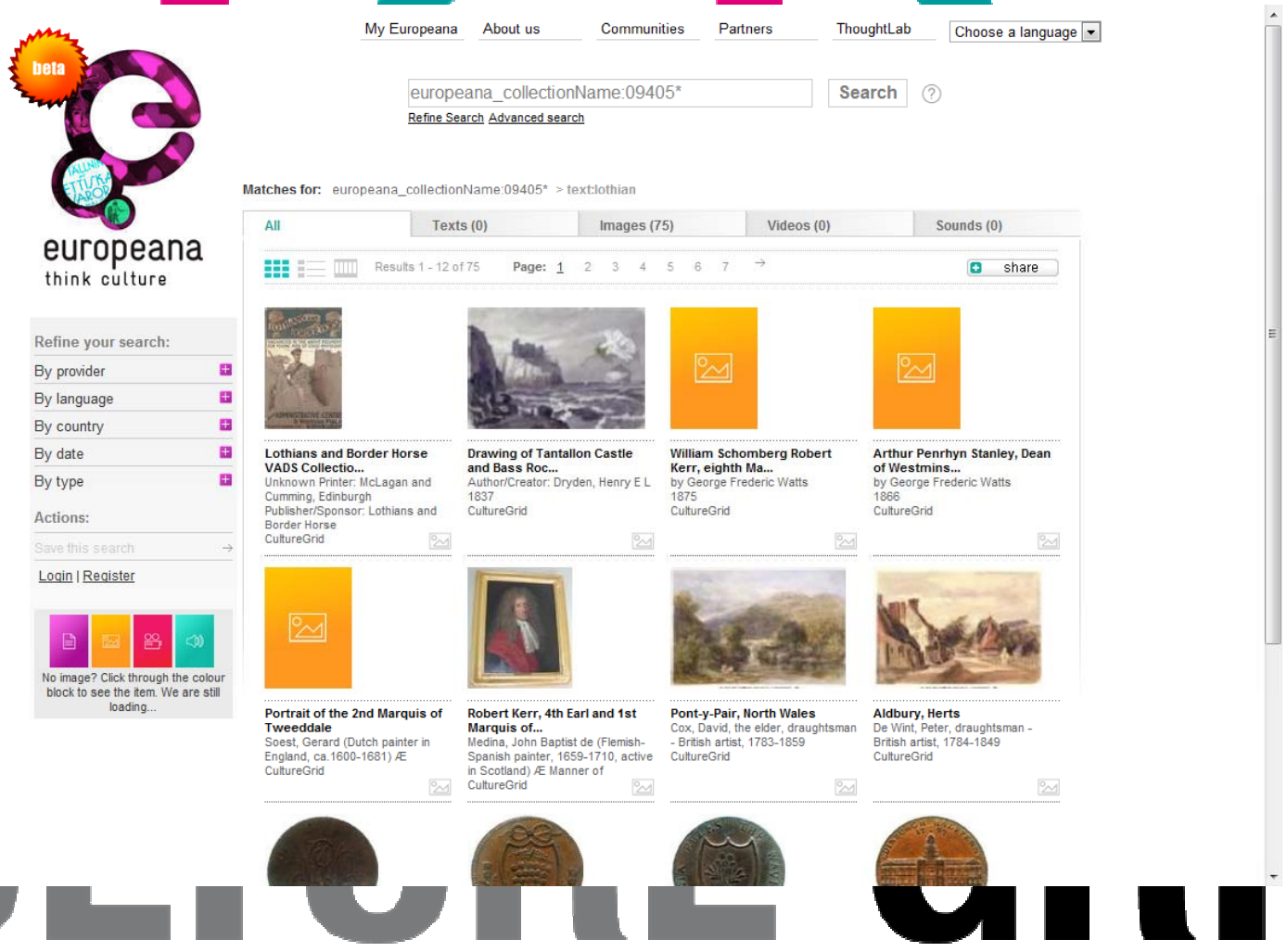
CULTURE GRID

Topics: portraits



CULTURE GRID

Europeana: Lothian



CultureGrid

Why have a Culture Grid?

- **To efficiently support all aspects of an organisation's mission: curatorial; educational; social and economic**

- **To effectively increase access, use and impact of collections information**

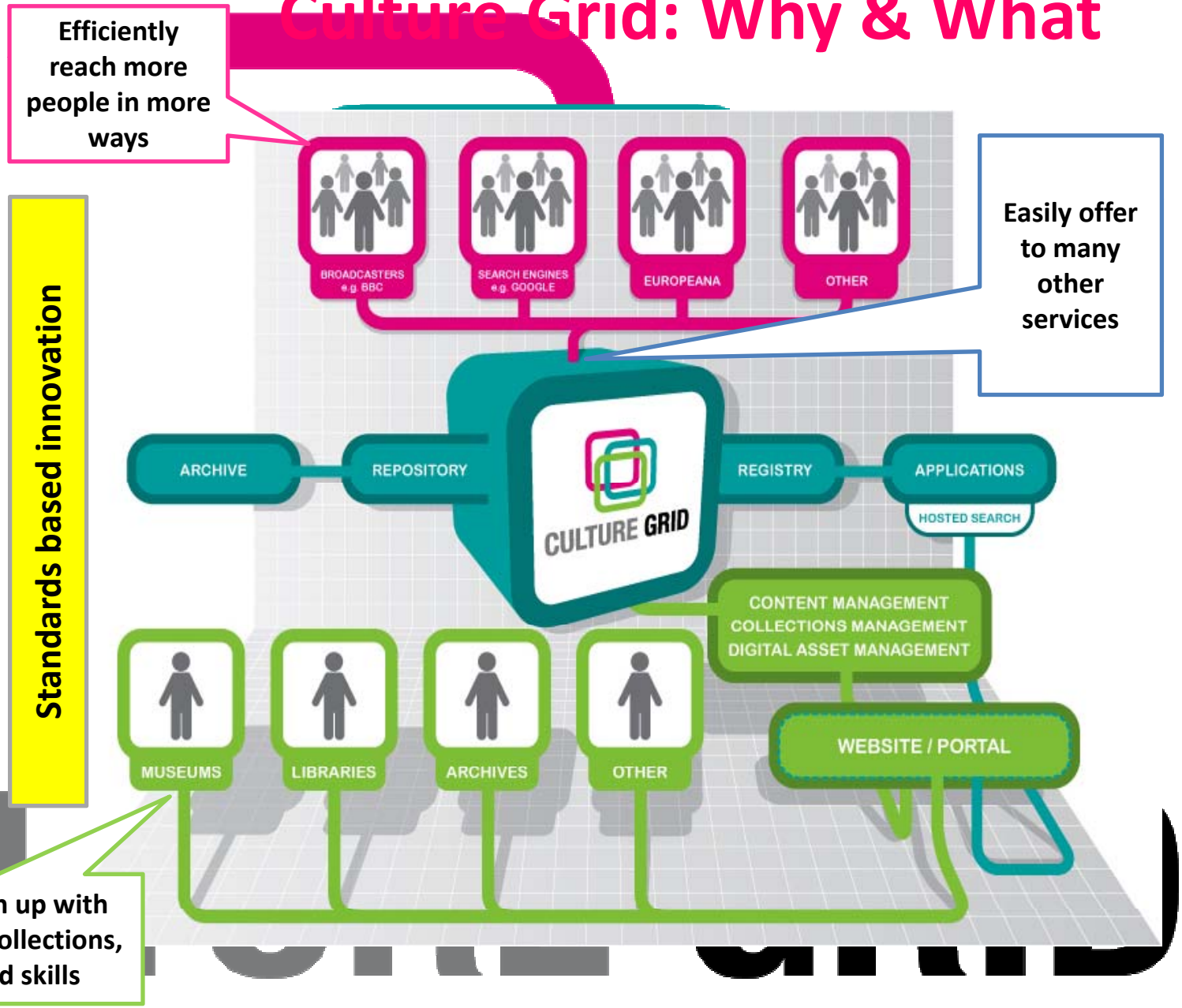
- **To make collections information go further...**

CULTURE GRID

Culture Grid: Why & What

A service that **joins up UK collections information** from different sources and **opens it up to more people for more use** in **more ways**

Standards based innovation



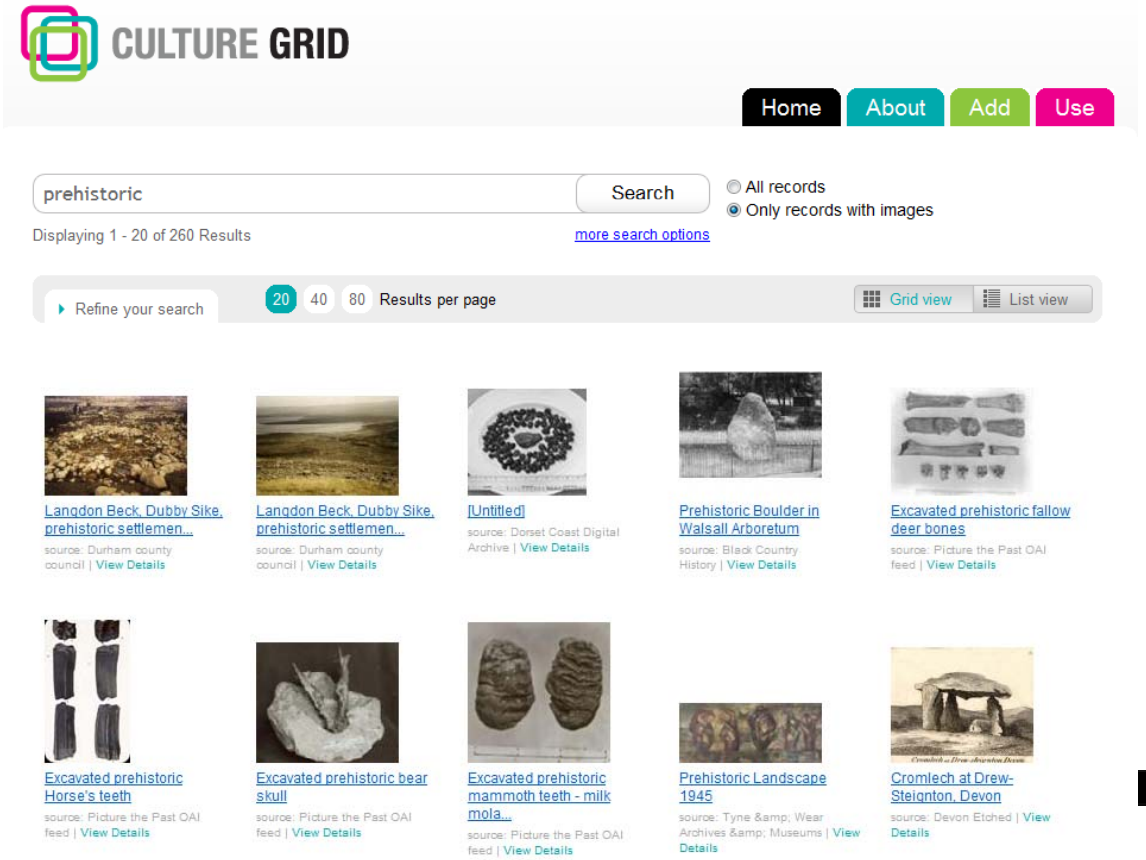
What's in the Culture Grid

A growing range of collections information from diverse collections of **national, regional and local scope**:

- **c1.2 million item records** (mostly images, some audio and video too)
- **c10,000 collection records**
- **Over 7,500 institutions records**
- Covering all of the UK and all subjects from **pre-historic artefacts** to **contemporary zoology**

CULTURE GRID

From pre-historic artefacts...



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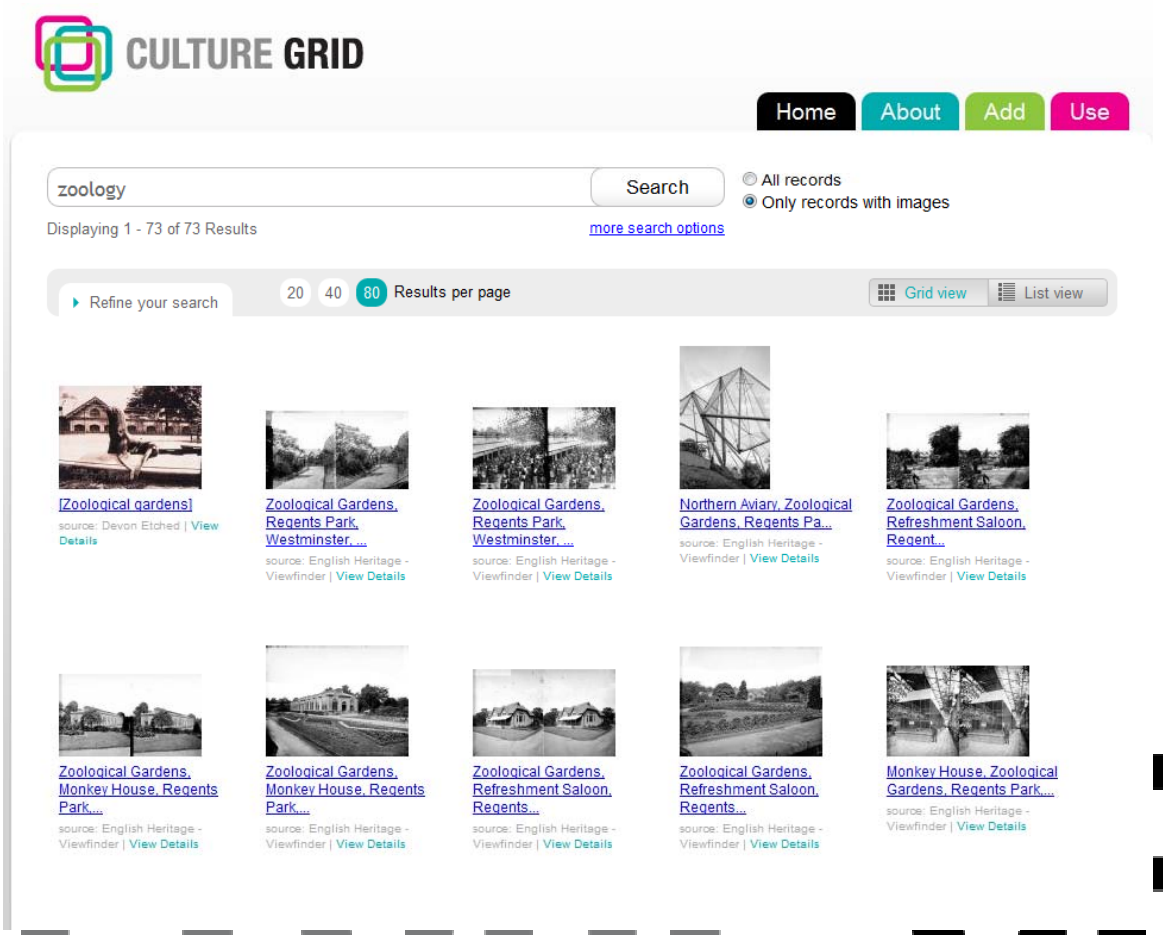
...to contemporary Zoology



CULTURE GRID

What is Culture Grid Used for?

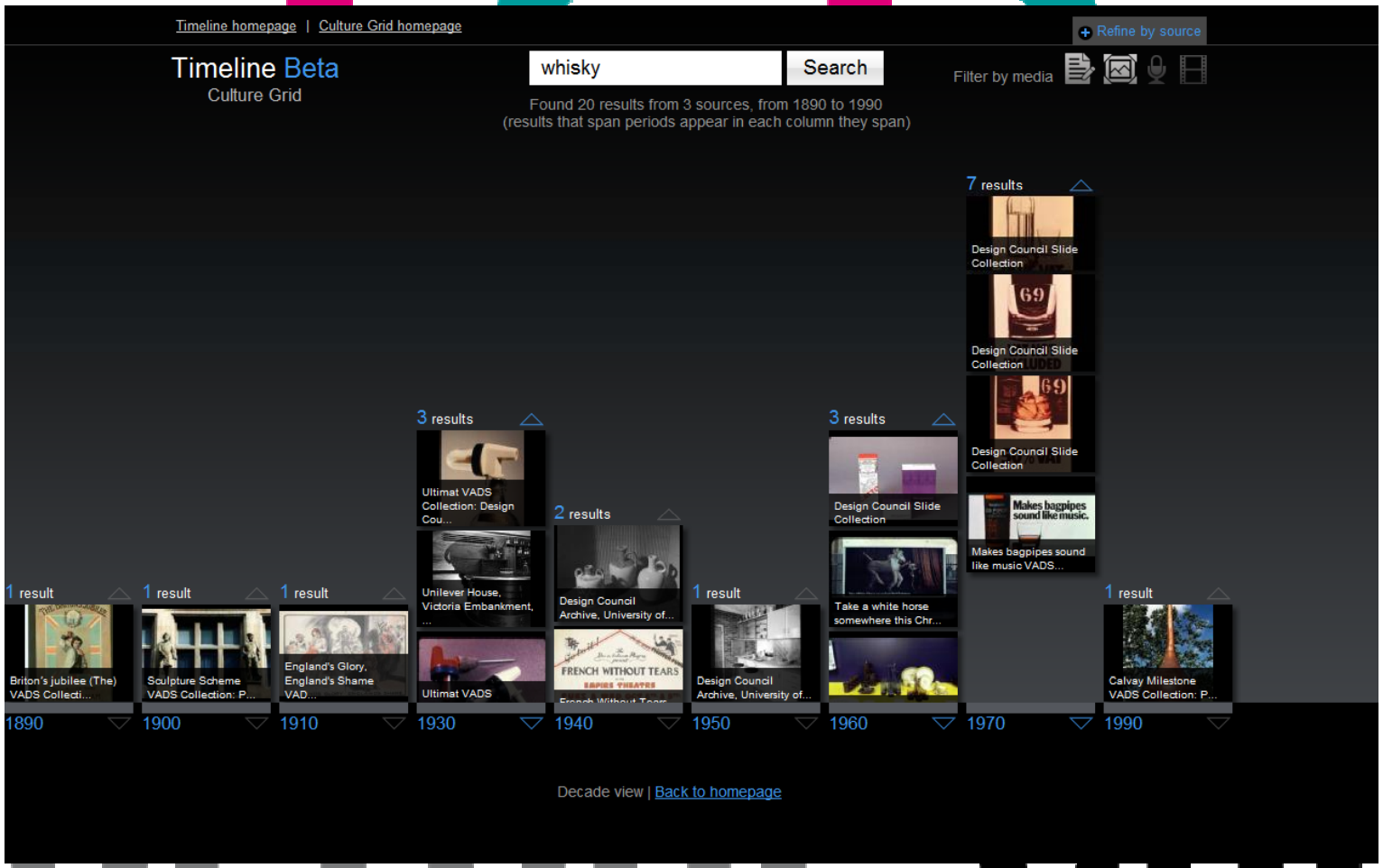
A growing range of uses of UK collections information:

Time based; **map** based; **subject** based:

- The Culture Grid **Search**
- The Culture Grid **Timeline**
- **Europeana**, the European Cultural
- ***Exploring 20th Century London*** (regional time and place based service)
- ***School of Everything*** (library records for informal learning portal)
- ***Sultans*** (library records for Sustainable Transport services)
- ***Hack Days*** (*Grid Hack*, *Culture Hack*; *History Hack*; *JISC Dev8D*, North East collections; Experiments with Grid API, by independent developer Mike Hirst, including a **slideshow** and **Twitter 'bot'**
- Technology Strategy Board test bed (*ICTomorrow* 'incuba[illegible]')

CULTURE GRID

Time Based



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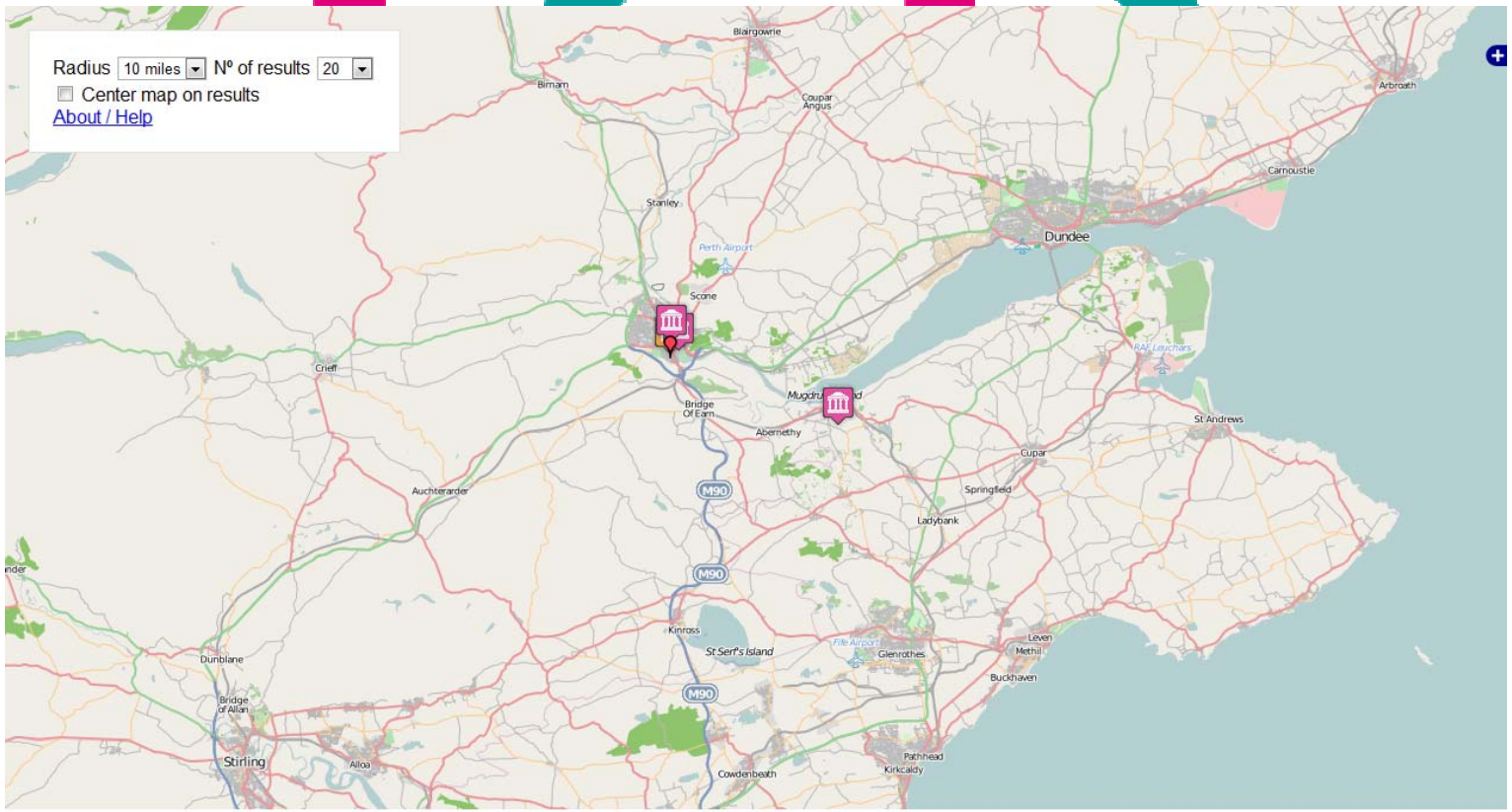
Map based searches



Subject based: Theatre

Theatre Information Group

The Theatre Information Group WordPress site test page.

Use the Culture Grid to search UK Theatre Collections

scotland Search

[Traverse Theatre Company Playscripts Collection]

This is a collection of playscripts deposited by the Traverse Theatre Company.; National Library of Scotland Manuscripts Division, National Library of Scotland,

Item Type(s):	Collection
Address:	George IV Bridge Edinburgh EH1 1EW View in Google maps (opens in new window)
From:	Backstage
Related collections:	People's Network; UK Theatre Collections; Cornucopia;
Subjects:	Play texts; play scripts; Theater

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Search

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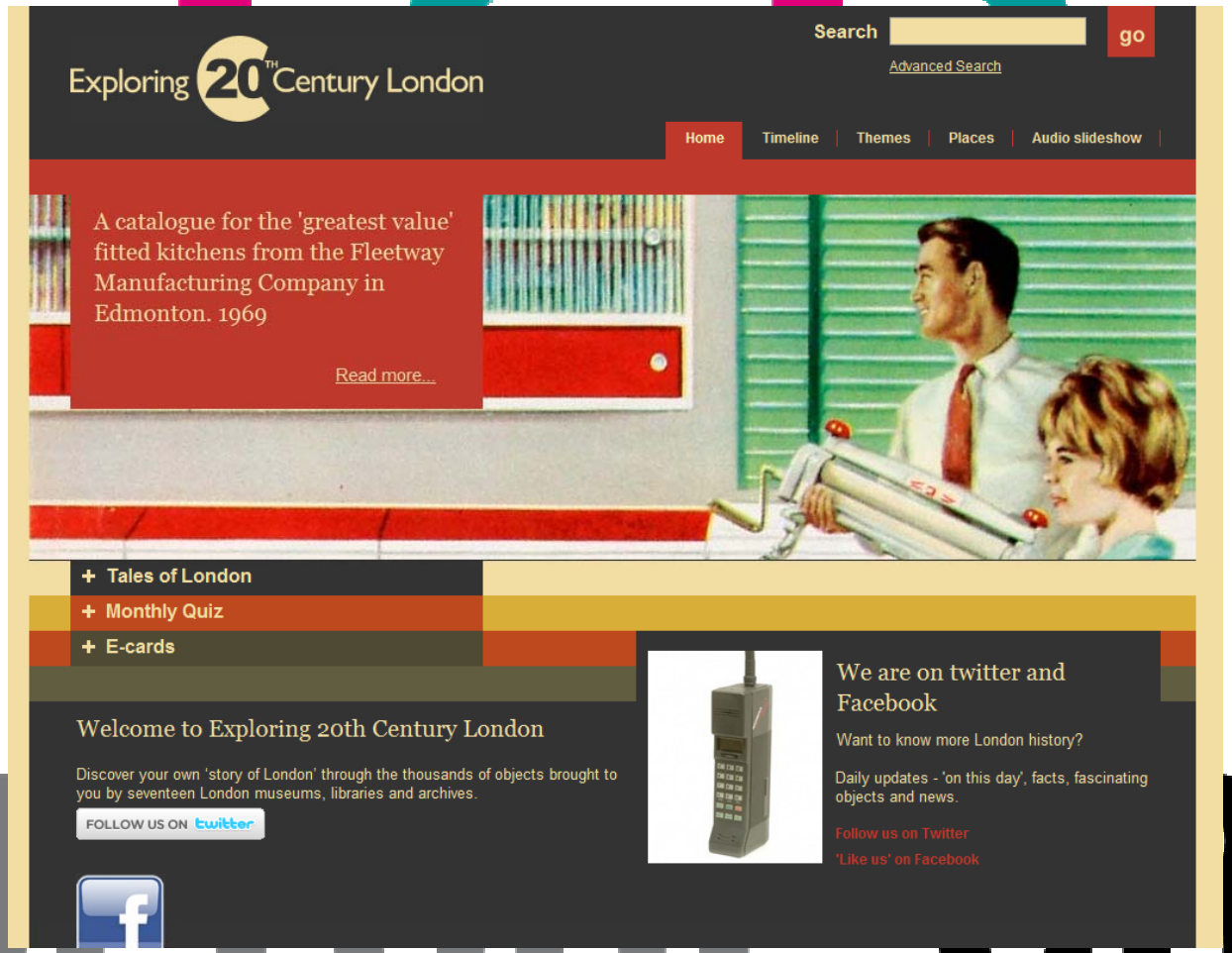
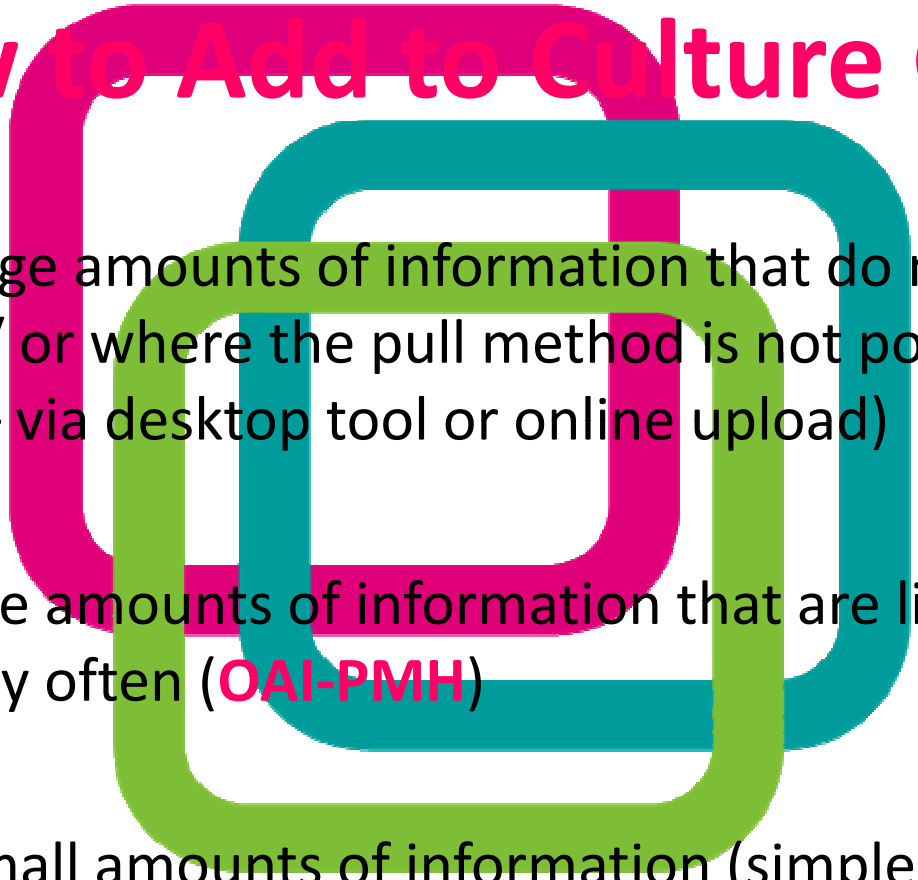
CULTURE GRID

Exploring 20th Century London



CULTURE GRID

How to Add to Culture Grid



- **Push** for large amounts of information that do not change often and / or where the pull method is not possible (RESTful API based – via desktop tool or online upload)
- **Pull** for large amounts of information that are likely to change fairly often (**OAI-PMH**)
- **Enter** for small amounts of information (simple online forms)

CULTURE GRID

- Input data formats inc **ESE**; **PNDS-DCAP**; for item records (**RSLP-CLD** for collection records)

Process to add to Culture Grid

- Organisation **liaises with Collections Trust to inform us of the scope** of their collections information and agree best ways forward to add to the Culture Grid
- Have someone who knows the organisation's records and collections well **map their record format(s) to the Culture Grid format(s)** (Can use a spreadsheet)
- Provide a set of **sample records (c50)** exported from a collection or asset management system to Culture Grid (XML preferred)
- Provide a **technical translation (usually XSLT based)** between organisation's record format and the Culture Grid format
- Implement the **agreed 'supply route'** (OAI-PMH, Data Upload Tool, Online Upload or offline data supply)

(The last two may be done in-house, by a current supplier e.g. collections management system or website supplier; or at cost from Culture Grid support)

CULTURE GRID

How to Use Culture Grid

- **Search Box Builder** to easily put custom Culture Grid searches on organisation's website(s)
- **Search API** (SOLR and SRU based) to build search applications like the Culture Grid search or **Find A Library**
- Harvest (**OAI-PMH**) for collecting information from the Culture Grid to build services like **Europeana** the European cultural portal and ***Exploring 20th Century London***

CULTURE GRID