



The National Archives

Summary of meeting

National Collections Strategy

21 January 2009

Attendees

Caroline Williams (The National Archives, Chair), Jude England (British Library), Bruce Jackson (Lancashire County Archive), Nick Kingsley (The National Archives), Patricia Methven (King's College, London), Heather Needham (Hampshire Record Office), Jonathan Pepler (National Council on Archives), Dave Thompson (Wellcome Trust), Mary Ellis (NLWales), Paula Brikci (MLA), Cathy Smith (The National Archives), Adam Blackie (The National Archives), Fleur Soper (The National Archives), Ed Hampshire (The National Archives, Secretary)

Panel membership

New members were welcomed and official thanks offered to those who had moved on since the last meeting in July 2008. Further suggestions were made as to new members of the Panel who might help raise awareness of the initiative across the wider cultural heritage sector.

National Collections Strategy Consultation Process

Responses to the three-month consultation were mostly positive towards the aims of the strategy though some questioned its possible impact particularly in sectors where there was a lack of resources. The official report from the consultation will be published on The National Archives' website in Spring 2009 with the final version of the strategy following in the Summer. Though the consultation is over, it is hoped that the wider archive sector will continue to maintain a dialogue with The National Archives throughout the development and implementation of individual strategies.

Context and communications

The Panel were reminded that the delivery of the National Collections Strategy reflects The National Archives' wider business aims and objectives and is linked to the new government policy on archives. A detailed communications plan is underway to ensure regular and consistent updates on progress both for the Panel and key stakeholders, inside and outside The National Archives.

Progress with existing strategies

Work is progressing with the Black and Minority Ethnic Performing Arts strategy led by the Arts Council England. Initial meetings have also been held with key stakeholders across the sport and cultural, central and local government, academic and cultural heritage sectors to begin the development of a strategy for London 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad.

Developing new strategies

The management of datasets and digital formats will be the focus for future strategies, building on the work already being led by The National Archives and its partners. Other areas where initial conversations have been had include sound recordings and records of charities and voluntary organisations.

Next steps

An assessment of progress and achievements to date will be conducted with a view to formalising processes and procedures for managing strategy development. This includes establishing criteria for prioritising strategies and allocation of resources.

The next meeting will be held in July 2009.