



The National Archives

## **Summary of meeting**

### **National Collections Strategy**

**8 July 2009**

#### **Attendees**

Caroline Williams (The National Archives, Chair), Jude England (British Library), Bruce Jackson (ACALG), 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 Library), Nick Poole (Collections Trust), Cathy Smith (The National Archives), Fleur Soper (The National Archives)

#### **Panel membership**

New member Nick Poole of the Collections Trust was welcomed to the panel.

#### **Feedback on progress since last meeting**

Following the consultation, the final version of the National Collections Strategy was published on target at the end of May 2009. Revised Terms of Reference have been circulated to the panel and criteria for prioritising individual strategies are being developed.

#### **National Collections Strategy Consultation Process**

Valuable feedback was received from the wider archive sector, particularly around communicating progress, encouraging collaboration, and identifying collections currently 'at risk'. Panel discussion focused on collective behaviours, the value of conducting a sector-wide 'gap' analysis and how to position the strategy within the broader cultural heritage sector.

#### **Supporting documentation**

Feedback was received from the panel on the draft collection strategies toolkit. This included highlighting benefits, identifying audiences, establishing resource

requirements, the decision-making process and providing case studies. An evaluation framework will be created to support work on both existing and future strategies.

### **Communications**

Activities will be stepped up over the coming months with key messages and 'calls to action' for use by Panel members within their own organisations.

### **Progress with existing strategies**

Following the completion in July of the JISC-funded study into collaborative web archiving and user requirements, work will continue on the development and implementation of a national strategy for web archives.

The strategy for London 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad - known as the 'The Record' - is now officially embedded in the Government Olympic Executive's 'Delivery Assurance Project' with archiving and records management recognised as a key 'cross-cutting' topic.

Funding has been secured in principle for the Religious Archives Group (RAG), in partnership with The National Archives, to carry out a high level survey of religious archives in the UK.

The Business Archives Strategy was launched at the Houses of Parliament on 9 July 2009.

Collections and Collecting: Survey of University Archives was announced in April 2009 and will provide information on the size, scope and capacity of university archive services.

Work is continuing on the strategy for the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Performing Arts sector with consultants soon to publish an online 'toolkit' for supporting archive development in the context of the 'Sustained Theatre' initiative.

A proposed strategy for audio records was well-received by experts at the British and Irish Sound Archives (BISA) conference in June and will be progressed with the British Library Sound Archive.

### **Any Other Business**

The Panel discussed the recently-published Code of Practice for Cultural Collections Management (PAS 197:2009). The code covers collections development; access and use; preservation and care; and information, cataloguing and records documentation.

### **Developing new strategies**

This will be considered as part of the wider focus of subsequent meetings.

**Next steps**

The National Archives will revise and enhance supporting documentation and focus on how best to position the National Collections Strategy within the archives and wider cultural heritage sector.

The next meeting will be held in November 2009.