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The preservation of complex digital objects

Experiences with emerging formats at the British Library

Michael Day, Giulia
Carla Rossi, Ian Cooke,
and Maureen Pennock

The British Library

18 and 19/11/2020



privacy

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The preservation of complex digital objects: experiences with emerging formats at the British Library

Michael Day, Giulia Carla Rossi, Ian Cooke,
and Maureen Pennock
The British Library

IFLA Information Technology and Preservation & Conservation Section
virtual event, Preservation of Digital Complex Objects, 18 & 19 November 2020

Outline

- Contexts:
 - Non-Print Legal Deposit in the UK
 - NPLD Emerging Formats project
- Selected examples of emerging Formats:
 - eBooks published as apps
 - Web-based interactive narratives
- Lessons learned so far

Legal Deposit in the United Kingdom

- Preserving a published record of UK culture, politics, society, technology, ...
- Established in 1662: Bodley's Library, Royal Library, Cambridge University Library
- From 1911: six Legal Deposit Libraries
- Covers certain categories of printed works published in the UK and Republic of Ireland
- 2013 Legal Deposit extended to Non-Print Works
- Initial focus on e-journals, ebooks, and the web (UK Web Archive)



Bodleian Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Emerging Formats project

- Emerging Formats project established by the UK Legal Deposit Libraries Committee, led by the British Library
- Interested in new kinds of content and how they might be considered in terms of Legal Deposit
- Focused on:
 - eBooks published as Apps
 - Web-based interactive narratives
 - Structured data (database-driven services)
- Approaches:
 - Engagement with creators, producers, user communities
 - Detailed evaluation of selected content combined with the technical assessment of file formats
 - Development of a collection management methodology

Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru

GPC

*A Dictionary of
the Welsh Language*

GPC CYM

Teipiwch air neu ymadrodd yma

Croeso

Croeso i ap Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru

Pan fydd 'CYM' i'w weld uchod gallwch chwilio am air neu ymadrodd Cymraeg. Er mwyn chwilio am air neu ymadrodd Saesneg yn y cyfystyron Saesneg pwyswch ar 'CYM' uchod i'w newid i 'SAES'.

Gellir rhoi:

- * i gyfateb i 0, 1, neu ragor o lythrennau
- + i gyfateb i 1 neu ragor o lythrennau
- ? i gyfateb i 1 llythyren

Am gymorth, pwyswch ar ◀ GPC, yna Cymorth.

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GPC CYM

1/21 caer (1953)

caer

[Crn. ker 'tref', Llyd. *kaer* 'tref': < Brth. **kagro-* o'r un gwr. â *cae*]
eb. ll. caerau, caeroedd, ceirydd.

a Amddiffynfa, lle cadarn wedi ei amgáu, castell, dinas gadarn neu gaerog:
fort, fortress, enclosed stronghold, castle, citadel, fortified town or city.

12g. *LL* 32, *cair* castell.
id. 127, dinant torr *icair*.
c. 1200 *VS*B 120, Aliud atrium Coquine ... id est, *Cayr* i coc.
13g. *C* 39₂₋₃, *allosci. pimp caer* otyueti. wir.
13g. *A* 26₃, *tutwlich kywlich a oreu vwlich ar vann caeru*.
13g. *BD* 3, *gvedy daruot ymladeu Tro a dystryw y gaer*.
14g. *T* 42₁₇₋₁₈, *Aduwyn gaer yssyd ar glawr gweilgi*.
14g. *WM* 472₁₁, *keyryt y byt*.
c. 1400 *RB* ii. 82, *adeiladwr kaeroed*.
1567 *TN* 393b, *y gaer vawr hono Babylon*.
Digwydd yn dra cyff. fel elf. mewn e. lleoedd.

b Mur, magwyr, rhagfur, gwrthglawdd, gwarchglawdd:
wall, rampart, bulwark.

13g. *Pen* 16 41b, [p]rif dinas ... a phrifgaer yng kylch e dinas.
1567 *LIG*G (*Sall*) 73b, *Bid tangneddyf o vewn dy gaerae*.
1567 *TN* 340b, *cayray lericho*.
1588 *Lef* xxv. 31, *trefi y rhai nid oes caeroedd o amgylch iddynt*.
1691 *T. Williams: YB* [iii], *gan fod y Gymraeg yn awr yn gaeth ei caerau*.
1718 *E. Samuel: HDd*D 113, *ein geni o fewn Caerau'r Eglwys*.
1753 *TR*, *caer* ... when we consider that in Caermarthenshire, the wall of the church-yard is called *Caer* y Fynwent, and any trench or bank of an old camp is called *Caer*.
1763 *DT* 199, *Ac wrth ei bwys y crynna'r llawr, / Trwy Gaerau mawr Tregaron*.
1794 *W*, *caer* mynwent d.g. a [*surrounding*] wall, a churchyard wall.

c Brethyn caerog, math o frethyn neu ddefnydd wedi ei weu'n rhesi cyfochrog ar draws o gornel i gornel, yn debyg i furiau caer:
twill.

Cfn.:

Ser. Caer Arianrhod: the Milky Way (lit. Arianrhod's fort).

Ser. Caer Eiddionydd: name of a constellation (lit. the fort of Eiddionydd).

Ser. Caer Gwydion: the Milky Way (lit. Gwydion's fort).

caer haul: *sunset (lit. sun's fort)*

caentachaf	caeog	caer	caer
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The Waste Land

The most revolutionary poem of the last hundred years, brought to life for a 21st century audience.



“As someone coming from the wrong side of the two cultures, Eliot’s poem had effectively been closed off to me for decades. Now it isn’t, and that in itself would almost justify the price of the iPad that made it possible.”

theguardian



Back



Goldilocks and Little Bear

Welcome to Goldilocks and Little Bear – whose story will you choose?

Explore both Goldilocks and Little Bear's stories in this ground-breaking new story app: switch to either story at any time simply by rotating your device!

Goldilocks and Little Bear demonstrates a unique, interactive new form of story-telling – it's an incredible, 21st-century reading experience.

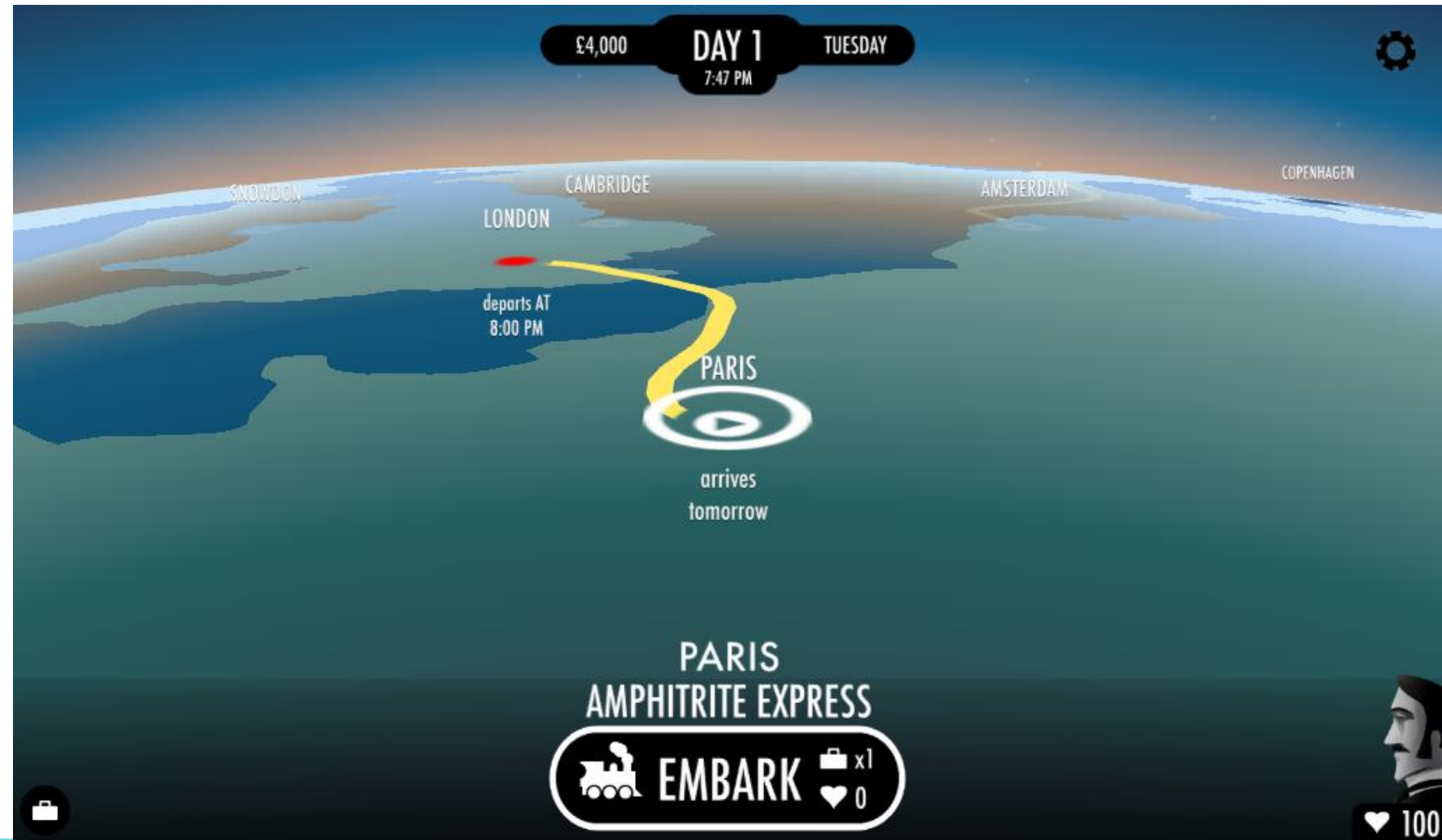
It's the classic story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears – as you've never seen it before. While Goldilocks is in the bears' home, eating their porridge, sitting in their chairs, and sleeping in their beds, Little Bear is in Goldilocks's family's home – eating their pancakes, wearing their clothes, and reading their books!

Enjoy each stories in parallel, individually, or however you'd like – you can toggle between the two at any point.

With beautiful artwork, stunning animation, ingenious, playful forms of interactivity, original music, voice work and sound effects, and lots more!

- Rotate your device to explore another story!

80 DAYS



It is too late. It's too late for Flo, too late for you. It doesn't matter if it's 10am Thursday or 1am Friday — she's left it too long. So have you.

Breathe

By Kate Pullinger

READ
(it's free!)

Compatibility

- This book doesn't like every device
- This book works best on iPhone 6 and above on iOS9 and up, and works best using the latest Safari browser
- This book works best on Android devices on V7 Nougat and up, and works best using the latest Chrome browser

Description

Breathe, by Kate Pullinger, published by Visual Editions, is a ghost story. It is a ghost story about a young woman, Flo, who likes to talk to ghosts. Or maybe it's the ghosts who like to talk to her.

Full of psychological suspense and haunting interruptions, *Breathe* is a story for anyone who wants to know what it's like to read a personalised book and feel a chill when they see their digital world and their real world combine.

About the author

[Kate Pullinger](#) writes fiction; her most recent books include the novel for smartphones, *Jellybone*, *Landing Gear*, and *The Mistress of Nothing*, which won Canada's Governor General's Award. Other projects include the digital war memorial *Letter to an Unknown Soldier* and the digital fiction for children, *Inanimate Alice*. She lives in London and Bath where she is Director of the Centre for Cultural and Creative Industries at Bath Spa University.

Technical assessments

- App-based content
 - Based on proprietary container formats
 - IPA for iOS devices
 - APK (Android Package) for Android
 - Preservation issues:
 - Content is tightly bound to particular *versions* of OS, device-types
 - Versioning: content has to be continually updated
 - Embedded Digital Rights Management
- Web-based content
 - Based on web standards (e.g. HTML5), but dependences on external resources
 - Emerging Formats project experimented with the use of web archiving tools: W3ACT and Web Recorder
 - Results added to the Emerging Formats collection in the UK Web Archive

Collection management challenges

- Identification of new content
 - There are no standard directories of Emerging Formats
 - Need to work with creators, researchers, publishers, etc.
- Acquisition and collection
 - Decisions on which versions to collect and on acquisition methods, e.g. file transfer, download via access code, web harvesting, etc.
 - Recording or documenting content that cannot be realistically collected
- Discovery and access
 - Decisions on the metadata required to facilitate discovery and use (e.g. information on technical requirements, etc.)
 - Challenges for access via UK Legal Deposit frameworks; requirements for hardware, user support, etc. in reading rooms

Need for collaboration and engagement

- Publishers, publication platforms
- Content creators
- Other organisations dealing with complex digital objects

thank you

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Visit our Unit's webpage to find out more about our work
at

<https://www.ifla.org/preservation-and-conservation>
<https://www.ifla.org/it>

