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Know Your Bristol On The Move


Introduction
The Know Your Bristol On the Move project (2013-15) is a collaboration between the University of Bristol, Bristol City Council and several community groups within the city. An award from the Capital Funding Call for Digital Transformations in Community Research Co-Production funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council allowed the project team to explore models of co-production through the use of digital tools, which enabled people to explore, research and co-create Bristol's history, heritage and culture.

Digital Tools
Map Your Bristol
http://www.mapyourbristol.org.uk

Map Your Bristol was designed to enable communities to easily curate and share their own stories. Developed with Drupal, an open-source Content Management System, it was possible to create a system that allowed members of the public to explore Bristol's history through the context of historical maps and to easily add new places and share their stories and digital artefacts such as images and videos.

The Drupal website also provided a web-based API that was used by a companion app to fetch and store data. The app is available for Android and iOS devices and was developed using the open-source Apache Cordova platform. It provides an easy-to-use crowdsourcing platform that allows community members to take advantage of the sensors on their phone to add places, stories and digital artefacts while 'on the move'.

By taking an open-source model it is possible for user groups to use and adapt the software for their own purposes. Communities were also important in testing the software, providing valuable feedback throughout the project.

Know Your Place
http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp

The project funded the enhancement of existing tools like Bristol City Council’s Know Your Place website (ArcGIS) that provides a rich set of contemporary and historic maps and digitised artefacts of historic collections held by the city, providing a controlled and moderated space that forms part of the Historic Environment Record that city planners consult when making planning decisions.

Community Co-Production
By using a truck equipped with the latest audio and video equipment the project was able to provide a mobile engagement space where people could congregate to share stories, explore the city’s history and have artefacts digitised. All these tools provided a platform for exploring models of co-production and were used in a number of public events and workshops designed and organised by academics and community groups.

Communities
Bristol Against Apartheid recorded the history of the Bristol Anti-Apartheid group, using material held at Bristol Record Office and through events with activists
Dame Emily Park explored the past, present and future of mine work with former mine workers
Deaf Community converted a neglected chapel in Greenbank Cemetery into a community centre
Women of East Bristol worked with volunteers to research and place a substantial digital postcard collection within the context of historic maps on the Know Your Place website

Music examined the history of Bristol’s African Caribbean music history with focus on the St. Pauls neighbourhood in the 1970s and 1980s

Sustainability
The Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Bristol and was further developed the digital tools to create an new app called Romantic Bristol: Writing the City, which combines the city's Romantic period history with present-day responses to that cultural heritage. The app also creates research data by recording (with permission) anonymous data to explore the ways in which walking through a city is altered, enhanced, encouraged and deliberately or subliminally directed by representations of its history.

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