

A custom EPrints solution for SOAS Digital Archives

<http://digital.info.soas.ac.uk/>



The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) is undertaking a major digitisation programme for its rich and diverse archives of materials from Asia and Africa.

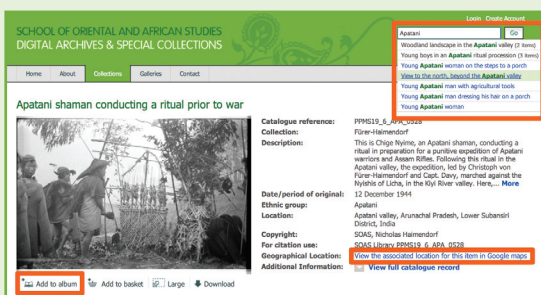
The first phase of the collection is the large collection of photos taken by Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf in North-East India between the 1930s and the 1970s, depicting the traditional life of tribes such as the Naga and Apatani. These were digitised as part of a JISC-funded project.

In response to the tender by the Centre for Digital Africa, Asia and the Middle East (CeDAAME) at SOAS in 2009, the University of London Computer Centre (ULCC) proposed and implemented an Open Source E-Prints-based solution for online open access to the digitised materials.

By building on the proven digital object and metadata management capabilities of EPrints, we have provided a highly functional cost-effective system offering a rich user experience.

9Web's attractive and consistent graphic design, underpinned by extensive usability testing, provides the finishing touch to an elegant and accessible online digital archive.

Further collections of the many treasures of the SOAS archives, including rare books, scrolls and manuscripts are currently undergoing digitisation and preparation, and new features are being developed to support rich user interaction with items such as Chinese scrolls and Islamic books and manuscripts.



Redesigned Abstract Page

The redesigned Item Abstract page uses a landscape-oriented layout to make full use of screen space, with CSS-based hiding of full details.

Enhanced features include:

- Simple search form on every page with dynamic auto-completion of Search phrases
- User-managed Albums of favourite items
- Google maps integration pops up a satellite-view map showing geographical location of item/event
- CSS hiding of additional metadata elements

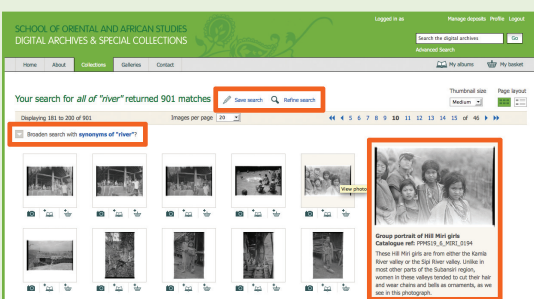
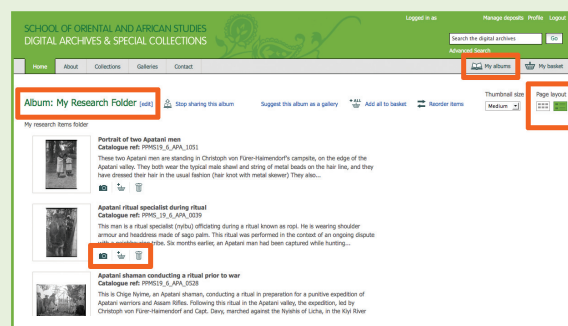
Advanced Search Features

Searching has been enhanced to support:

- Thesaurus lookup to suggest alternative terms
- Advanced word-stemming to improve search and discovery

Search results features include:

- Configurable results page supports alternative page layouts (flowing thumbnail grid or detailed item list), medium or large thumbnail sizes, and adjustable items-per-page
- Pop-up image view with summary metadata
- Access to standard EPrints features to save and refine search



User-created Albums

The EPrints database manages user-created albums. Album management features include:

- Alternative page layouts (flowing thumbnail grid or detailed item list)
- Manual override of default item order
- "Shopping basket" to order full-size prints
- URL-based linking and sharing of albums

Additionally, the Galleries feature provides similar album-like functionality for administrators to create and display thematic sub-collections.

Contact: Richard Davis: r.davis@ulcc.ac.uk Rory McNicholl: r.mcnicholl@ulcc.ac.uk



www.soas.ac.uk



www.soas.ac.uk/cedaame



www.jisc.ac.uk



www.ulcc.ac.uk



www.9web.co.uk

