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Galactic interfaces: navigating the creative data universe

Here are some ways in which working with arts and humanities researchers has helped the Leeds research data service to boldly go into strange new worlds..

Music performance data

'Galactic Interfaces' by Hugh Davies is included in the 'Hugh Davies: Electronic Music Innovator' collection deposited in the Research Data Leeds repository by project PI Dr James Mooney.

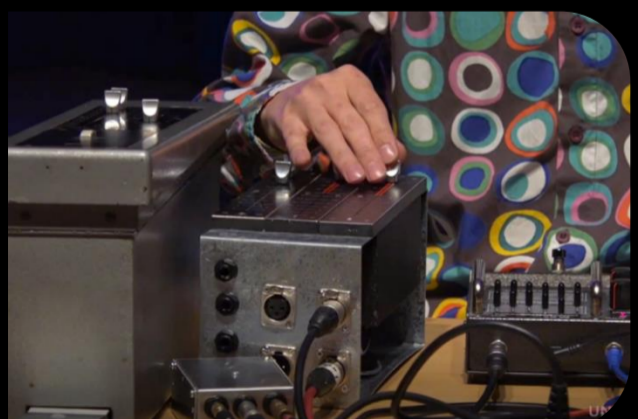
We use 'Galactic Interfaces' in research data training sessions to encourage researchers to step outside their own world and **think creatively about their data** and metadata.



"How the Institutional Data Repository helped me promote my data",
Dr James Mooney

Performance data illustrates the complexity of **crediting all contributors** to the dataset e.g. composers, performers, editors, recording engineers....

Working with the Music Department led to closer ties with the Leeds Humanities Research Institute, including **co-designed training**.



Planet EPSRC Data
Compliance

The EPSRC data expectations provided an important launch pad for the University of Leeds research data service. The EPSRC mandate continues to be a significant driver.

Digital Library of Chinese Theatre 中国戏剧资料库

'Staging China' project has posed a number of interesting challenges including:

- filenames and metadata in Mandarin Chinese (we plumped for alphanumeric filenames)
- rights and licensing
- 'at risk' content on a project website
- database driven project website

We will be using the Chinese Theatre websites as part of a pilot with the British Library's **UK Web Archive**.

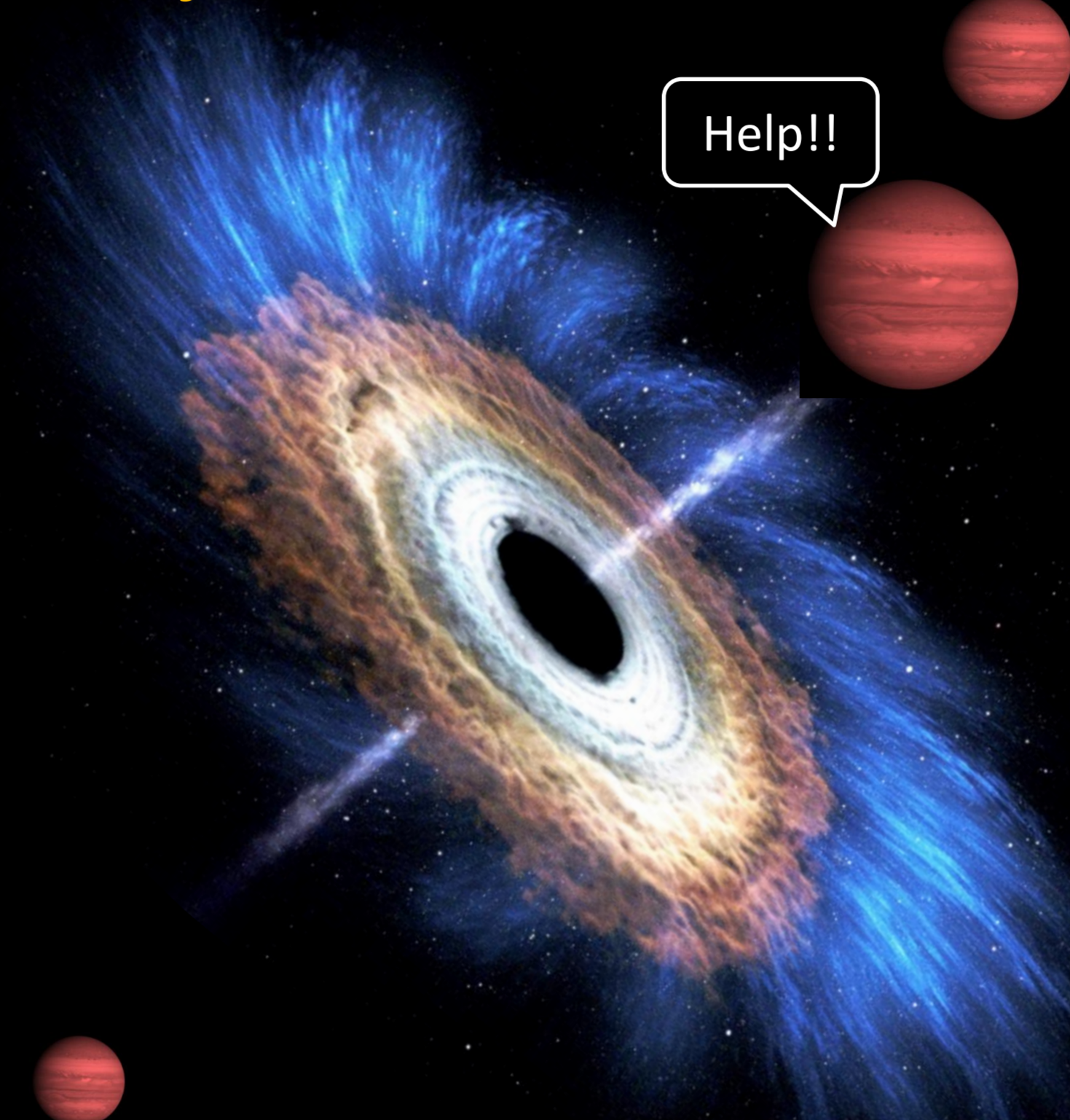


Watch a clip from 'The Orphan of Zhao', National Theatre Company of China production



Image courtesy of Shanghai Yueju Theatre and the Hangzhou Municipal Media Group

Project websites at risk



How do we make sure that:

- websites are planned and costed carefully
- longevity is designed in
- researchers, repository staff and IT staff coordinate efforts
- we understand the **complementary roles of repositories and web archives**
- resources are preserved and remain publicly accessible?

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Special Collections

As a data repository, we have many areas of shared interest with Special Collections:

- funding calls
- data management plans
- the relationship between the Special Collections catalogue and the data repository
- **selection and retention** of physical and digital materials
- digital preservation workflows and metadata
- **deposit agreements** and legal aspects of data curation



Take me to
your leader...



Submitted Abstract

- The poster takes its title from a piece of music in one of the datasets in the Research Data Leeds repository. Galactic Interfaces is a semi-improvised piece about interactions and contrasts; rather like developing a research data service. The poster will use the galactic theme to show how working with arts and humanities researchers has launched us from planet 'EPSRC data compliance' to boldly go where the research data service has not gone before. We use 'Galactic Interfaces' in research data training sessions to encourage researchers to step outside their own world and think creatively about their data and metadata. Our galactic journey has taken us into the Special Collections galaxy where we have been working on developing a common language so we can understand each other. We have a landing party visiting the digital humanities nebula and we're launching a rescue mission for project web sites currently being drawn into a giant black hole.
- Much valuable work has been done with creative data already in other repository services (VADS, UAL etc.); for a repository in a multi-disciplinary institution like University of Leeds, working with creative data has shifted our thinking about our research data service and where its long term value may lie. It has prompted consideration of the variety of data contributors; who should be acknowledged for their creative input, and how? How do we licence data with third party content? Do we have a role in bringing together data and researchers from different spheres – virtually, but also in physical space for discussion and exploration? Borders are being crossed, redrawn and broken down. We are re-drawing our star charts.