

## Speaker Biographies for the British Library Labs Symposium Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> (2015)

British Library Conference Centre, Auditorium, The British Library, St Pancras, London NW1 2DB, UK

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**Dr Adam Farquhar, Head of Digital Scholarship at the British Library.** Adam leads the development and implementation of the Collection Division's digital scholarship and digitisation strategies. He has established the Library's Digital Preservation Team, initiating and managing the Library's dataset programme (DataCite and Technical and Human infrastructure for Open Research (THOR)), and co-ordinating the Planets Digital Preservation project. Adam has worked as Principal Knowledge Management Architect for Schlumberger in the oil industry, and as a research scientist in the Knowledge Systems Laboratory of Stanford University.



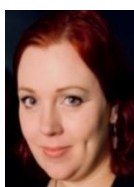
**David De Roure, Professor of e-Research at the University of Oxford,** Director of the Oxford e-Research Centre and Co-Director of the Institute for the Future of Computing in the Oxford Martin School. He has strategic responsibility for Digital Humanities at Oxford and directed the national Digital Social Research programme for ESRC, for whom he is now a strategic adviser. His personal research is in Computational Musicology, Web Science, and Internet of Things. He is a frequent speaker and writer on digital scholarship and the future of scholarly communications.



**Caroline Brazier, Chief Librarian of the British Library.** Caroline is responsible for delivering on the Library's core mandate to build, curate, preserve and make available the British Library's collection of over 150 million items. Her current focus is on strategies for effective digital collection development including digital legal deposit and the impacts of open access. The development of international partnerships to support digitisation and the sharing of the Library's collections globally is also a key focus. She works extensively with the higher education and library sectors in the UK and with national libraries around the world. Caroline is currently on the Board of Research Libraries and she is a Trustee of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Britten Pears Foundation, and also CILIP.



**Mahendra Mahey, Project Manager of British Library Labs.** Mahendra has previous experience of working on a number of collaborative projects with UKOLN (University of Bath), including the Jisc funded UK Developer Community Supporting Innovation (DevCSI) initiative and 'Developer Happiness' events, CERIFy (Implementing a European Data Model for Managing Research Information) and the Digital Repositories Research Team (RRT). Mahendra was an e-resources adviser for the Jisc Regional Support Centres (England and Scotland) and has over 10 years' experience as a lecturer in Social Sciences (specialising in Child Development), Computing, Multimedia and English for Speakers of Other Languages in Further and Higher Education internationally.



**Stella Wisdom, Digital Curator at the British Library.** Stella's role at the BL explores and promotes new methods of research using both born digital content and digitised collections. In 2013 Stella co-founded with GameCity a competition for Higher Education videogame design students called Off the Map, where students are challenged to create videogames inspired by BL collections. Stella has also managed Collection Storage at the BL in Boston Spa, Yorkshire. Stella previously worked at the Library and Information Statistics Unit based at Loughborough University, the Warburg Institute Library and the National Library of Scotland.



**Ben O'Steen, Technical Lead of British Library Labs.** Ben was previously a freelance software developer in the academic sector. He has formal training in chemistry and he has authored a Physics GCSE course, created electronics for art installations and co-founded the "Developer Happiness" conference (dev&d.org). Ben was the lead developer in the Bodleian Library's Research and Development department, building their Resource Description Framework (RDF) powered repository and digital asset management systems. He worked on Jisc funded projects (OpenBibliography, OpenCitation) and has sat on technical advisory boards for the Web-service Offering Repository Deposit (SWORD) protocol and ORCID.



**Dr Aquiles Alencar-Brayner, Digital Curator at the British Library.** Aquiles has worked at the British Library as a Digital Curator since 2010. He holds a PhD in Latin American Literature from King's College, University of London, and an MSc in Library and Information Science from City University London. He has been involved in various digital projects and is a member of The British Academy and Peer Review Committee for the ESRC.



**Nora McGregor, Digital Curator at the British Library.** Nora is a qualified Librarian with an interest in how digital technologies are transforming research processes and environments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, shaping future library service provision. She has co-curated two British Library exhibitions, *Growing Knowledge: The Evolution of Research* (Oct 2010–July 2011) and *Beautiful Science: Picturing Data, Inspiring Insight* (Feb 2014–May 2014). Nora's current work is focussing on the design, development and delivery of a major Digital Scholarship Training Programme for Library staff.



**Dr Rossitza Atanassova, Digital Curator at the British Library.** Rossitza is interested in the creation and exploitation of digitised content and the application of new research methods to digital collections. In her current role at the British Library, Rossitza is responsible for the governance of digitisation projects and she has contributed to two European Commission funded projects, *SUCCEED* (2013–2014) and *Europeana Newspapers* (2012–2015). Rossitza holds a DPhil in Classics, and she has tutored courses for the Open University and worked in electronic publishing for ProQuest.



**Dr Mia Ridge, Digital Curator at the British Library.** Mia has worked as a business analyst, digital consultant and web programmer in the cultural heritage/commercial sectors, and was formally Lead Web Developer at the Science Museum Group. She has held Fellowships at Trinity College Dublin/CENDARI (Ireland, 2014), the Polis Centre Institute on 'Spatial Narrative and Deep Maps' (USA, 2012) and the Roy Rosenzweig Centre for History and New Media 'One Week|One Tool' program (USA, 2013). She is Chair of the Museums Computer Group (MCG) and a member of the Executive Council of the Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH). Mia holds a PhD in digital humanities.



**George Oates, Director of Good, Form & Spectacle Ltd.** George has been working on the web since 1996 in roles like designer, producer, product manager, project lead, and art director. George was the lead designer of Flickr from its inception and in 2007 she invented the Flickr Commons. She has worked at the Internet Archive, as project lead for the Open Library editable library catalog and she also designed the system to allow people to borrow eBooks. George serves on the board of Sol Design Lab, a company making solar energy installations, the advisory board of British Library Labs and is a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.



**Jenn Phillips-Bacher, Web Manager at the Wellcome Library.** Jenn is a digital information professional with more than 10 years' experience working in libraries, archives and the cultural heritage sector. She has worked in public, university and special libraries in the USA as well as the UK. She has extensive experience of undertaking strategic works involving aspects of information architecture, editorial content, planning and web management. Jenn studied Medieval History and Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, before moving on to become a librarian. She is also an Agile Project Management Registered Practitioner.



**Paul Downey, Technical Architect at the Government Digital Service (GDS).** In his current workplace, Paul has helped to build GOV.UK and now works with departments to transform GDS. He represents GDS on the UK government Open Standards Board. Formerly he acted as BT's Chief Web Services Architect, serving as their W3C Advisory Committee representative and he was a founding member of Osmosoft. Paul is also a founder of SolderPad, a place to share, discover and collaborate on electronic projects, a co-founder of OSHUG, the Open Source Hardware monthly meet-up, and he is known for The Web is Agreement.