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# Technology timeline

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For our 50th issue I thought it would be interesting to look back to 1994 and reflect on how technology has changed since *SCONUL Newsletter/Focus* began.

This is very much a personal view as I have looked for key dates and technologies that have affected my working life, but I hope it brings back a few memories and reminds you of some of your own experiences over the last 16 years. The data has been collated from a number of sources, including *SCONUL Focus*, JISC, the British Library, Wikipedia and Glasgow University library's annual reports, as a typical example from the sector. In this issue of *SCONUL Focus* we are looking back to a time when the web was in its early stages of development and this timeline does help to illustrate how far we have come over a relatively short period. I would like to continue to track the evolution of the technology and would be interested to hear of any significant developments you think should be included.

## 1994

- Launch of Yahoo! (formerly 'Jerry & David's Guide to the World Wide Web')
- A small number of UK academic libraries have their own web sites and the Consortium of University and Research Libraries (CURL) provides access to eight online catalogues

## 1995

- The Alta Vista search engine is launched, providing the first multi-lingual internet search capability
- Launch of both Ebay and Amazon
- The first Dublin Core metadata workshop (DC-1) is held in March in Dublin, Ohio
- The UK pilot site initiative is set up to address the spiralling costs of journals and

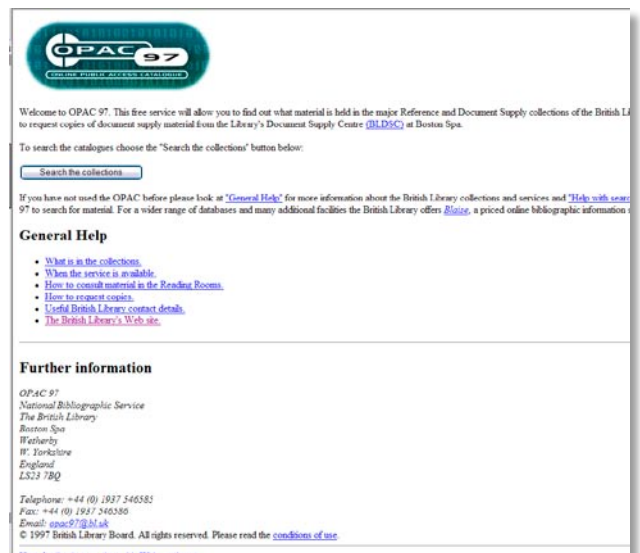
restrictions on the copying and distribution of materials

## 1996

- JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) publishes its first formal five-year strategy
- The browser wars begin when Microsoft integrates Internet Explorer with Windows
- The original plagiarism-detection project, which became Turnitin, is started at University College Berkeley

## 1997

- The British Library makes its catalogue available online as OPAC97 and offers access to a number of digitised special collections, including 'Electronic Beowulf', on the Portico web gateway; images from the Magna Carta are also available but require Netscape 3, which not everyone has yet.
- SCONUL develops its first web site



## 1998

- Formation of the Resource Discovery Network (RDN), bringing together a number of subject information gateways
- Launch of the 'Internet Detective' online search tutorial
- HERON is set up as a funded project in the eLib programme to establish a UK copyright clearance and digitisation service
- The JISC/JSTOR joint initiative is launched to establish the JSTOR UK mirror site and provide reliable access to the e-journals archive
- 4 September: Google founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin

## 1999

- JISC funds a pilot project to establish the Archives Hub
- The British Library completes its move to St Pancras and launches the Articles Direct service, with online ordering and secure electronic credit card payments

## 2000

- The dotcom bust
- Glasgow University library takes out its first e-book subscription and makes available its first collection of electronic exam papers

## 2001

- 15 January: launch of Wikipedia
- Glasgow University library holds its first virtual exhibition of 50 items from the special collections and archives.
- The University of Portsmouth sets up a wireless LAN (Local Area Network) and starts to loan laptops in the library

## 2003

- Oftel reports that 47% of UK homes now have internet access
- The SUNCAT project to develop an online national union catalogue of serials holdings is set up
- JISC agrees membership of BioMed Central and the first UK e-book deal with Taylor and Francis

## 2004

- Launch of Facebook and Flickr
- The E-measures pilot project is established
- The Learning Grid, one of the first technology-rich, flexible learning spaces in UK academic libraries, opens at the University of Warwick
- The Google Books project gets under way



## 2005

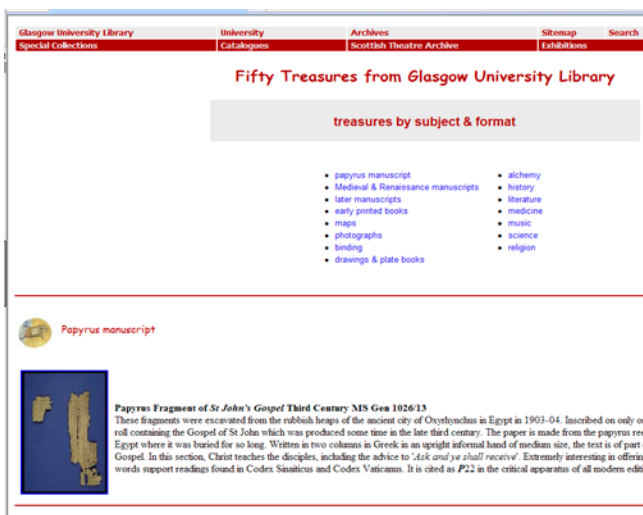
- Glasgow University library launches electronic resource management and federated search services; several academic libraries report greatly increased usage of electronic resources when federated search and link resolver services are fully operational
- The British Library reveals its strategy for creating the National Digital Library, predicting that there will be a large-scale transition to digital publishing by 2020

## 2006

- JISC Collections is established to negotiate, procure and license digital content on behalf of the UK academic and research community
- Project HAERVI is established to develop a toolkit enabling libraries to offer access to e-resources for visiting students and researchers

## 2002

- SPARC publishes a position paper on institutional repositories and JISC funds a number of development projects under the FAIR programme
- Glasgow University library pilots the self-service short loan collection, using RFID and Digital Library Assistants
- The first seven libraries join the SHERPA partnership to develop open-access institutional repositories



- The first tweet by Twitter-founder Jack Dorsey reads 'just setting up my twttr'



## 2007

- Library blogs and Facebook pages are becoming widely used
- Glasgow University library introduces podcasts on information literacy
- The web 2.0 skills training programme at McMaster University is presented at the SCONUL autumn conference and the model is adopted by a number of libraries
- JISC and CURL fund the Ethosnet project to widen access to UK electronic theses

## 2008



- CIBER publishes the influential briefing paper on information behaviour of the researcher of the future (the 'Google generation')
- Oxford University launches the *Digital Memories of the First World War* web site, inviting members of the public to submit personal items for inclusion

## 2009

- Mobile devices supporting roving enquiry support are piloted in several academic libraries

- Sheffield University introduces a mobile phone application with access to a range of information, including library accounts

## 2010

- Facebook records 500 million active users, with over 150 million accessing it via mobile devices
- The Internet Detective search tutorial is adapted for mobile devices
- The Library of Congress announces that it will archive every public tweet.

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