

## **What is RES?**

Finding online teaching resources you can rely on is important for teachers in all subject areas and at all levels. The Internet offers a massive selection of materials, but they may not be just what you need or may be unlicensed and removed when you come to use them in class or for research, while sending students out to find websites for themselves could expose them to inaccurate or even harmful information.

The **Research and Education Space** (RES) will help by building an open, accessible catalogue of online educational resources that can be used in teaching and research, either directly within classroom materials and on electronic whiteboards, or in materials developed by educational publishers and software providers.

The RES platform will collect, index and organise rich structured data about archive collections from reputable sources. It will index collections of material that are freely available or licensed for use in education, and tools built on the platform will provide safe and easy ways to search and remember clips, images and documents you need to support your teaching or use in research.

The catalogues aggregated by RES will be connected together, searchable, accessible, visible and usable. There will be tools to let individuals and institutions add more materials and items will be indexed and tagged to a high level of detail.

RES is not a new BBC product, service or website but an open platform through which online educational resources can be discovered and used. Because it is open it can be built on by anyone, so the range of products that can be built on it is huge.

## **Who is involved in RES?**

RES is being developed through a partnership between the BBC, Jisc and the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC), who share the goal of building a platform that indexes and aggregates materials available for education and research use.

## **Who will be making their catalogues available through RES?**

Content will come from archives, museums, libraries, galleries and publishers who have made material available for education. RES indexes linked data catalogues that have been published under open licences, and we plan to include material from:

- Europeana
- BBC/programmes data
- British Museum Collections Online
- dbpedialite.org
- nature.com
- The University of Manchester Image Collection
- British Film Institute Archive Collections

- Wikimedia Commons
- Library of Congress Subject Headings catalogue
- People's Collection Wales; Science Museum Collections
- New York Times Linked Open Data
- LinkedGeoData
- KB+
- Geonames Semantic Web
- The National Archives
- British Pathé film archive
- Tate Collection metadata
- British Library IAMS
- Heritagedata.org
- National Library of Wales
- the British Geological Survey

There are a number of encyclopedic collections which act as data hubs, eg geographic place names, art/artists names, historic periods, UK curriculum ontology. So far we have concentrated on the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names, Geonames, the Library of Congress Datasets, freebase, and dbpedia.

We also plan to work with organisations like The National Archives, The Open University, Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Imperial War Museum, Jisc, University College London, the Wellcome Collection as well as many more museums, galleries, schools, colleges and universities.

The RES platform only stores catalogue data for the materials. The actual clips, documents and images will be hosted and made available directly by their owners.

### **What types of material will be made available for use?**

Examples include film, video, audio, photos and images, commercial music, sheet music and historical documents.

### **Why should I use RES?**

The aim is for RES to make lessons and learning more interesting, varied, colourful and informative, to enrich teaching across different levels and subjects and to support research at all levels. It's true that you can already find lots of information on the internet, but search is not geared to the requirements of students and teachers. You are just as likely to get a return for a pub called The Lord Palmerston, as the historical figure, if you type Plamerston in to Google. What's more the permission to use the materials you find is not always clear and there is no guarantee that they will be permanently available. You've all found a great clip on You Tube, only for it to have been removed subsequently because of copyright infringement.

### **Will RES have material for both Primary and Secondary schools?**

Yes – and beyond! RES will cover material relevant to education and research at all levels, from primary schools to post-doctoral research. RES will index materials that have been licensed for a wide variety of creative, imaginative and innovative educational uses. Many will be available to be adapted for learners at all levels and across every curriculum subject and topic. We believe this will be useful to primary and secondary school teachers, as well as over 18s in Higher Education and their lecturers in all subject areas. It's an opportunity to be creative with better materials.

### **Is there an example of how RES can be used in the classroom?**

Imagine an English teacher is working on lessons on Shakespeare. They might start out looking at a painting of Shakespeare on the *Your Paintings* website then watch a film of a production of *Macbeth* from the Royal Shakespeare Company, then view a scan of a rare musical manuscript held by The National Archives, then browse similar manuscript scans held at The National Library of Wales, watch a clip about how paper was produced in Shakespeare's era, before ending up learning about the plants used to make the paper using information from The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

### **Can students access and use content through the RES platform too?**

Anyone can use the RES platform, but within class we envisage RES tools being used by teachers and educators to select material which they feel is of educational value to students and make it available through a secure VLE or other means.

### **How will I know if I have the rights to use the content in my lessons?**

We will search for materials that have been licensed for educational use in the UK or are out of copyright or otherwise available for teaching and research purposes, and the information about rights will be held in the RES catalogue. Where a particular resource requires a specific licence, such as the ERA licence that permits use of off-air broadcasts, this will be indicated.

### **When will RES be available?**

The RES platform already exists and the catalogue is starting to grow, while we are developing a range of tools to be used by software companies and educational publishers who want to build resources around it. We plan to make initial products, including tools for teachers to use in the classroom, available in the autumn term of 2015

### **Will there be a cost for using RES? Do I need to subscribe or buy a membership?**

The RES platform is free to use, but products, tools and services built on top of it may be commercially available. RES does not affect the licensing of the actual resources in any way but simply makes them more discoverable, so existing licensing schemes are unchanged.

### **Will I be allowed to stream, download and make clips of audio and video?**

The details of what uses are permitted for a particular asset indexed by the RES platform are entirely up to the rights holder and will depend on the licence terms and conditions. RES does not store any materials itself but simply makes them more discoverable, so existing licensing schemes are unchanged

### **How will I access the content through RES?**

RES is a platform for discovery, but the details of how assets are accessed will depend on the specific tools being used, the policies of the rights holders who actually host and deliver the materials, and the licences held. We envisage a range of RES-powered products and services including modules for VLEs, standalone teaching software, multimedia books and apps.

### **Will I be able to access the content from different devices?**

The details of what uses are permitted for a particular asset indexed by the RES platform are entirely up to the rights holder and will depend on the licence terms and conditions. RES does not store any materials itself but simply makes them more discoverable, so existing licensing schemes are unchanged

### **Will subtitles and transcripts be made available for the video content?**

The details of what uses are permitted for a particular asset indexed by the RES platform are entirely up to the rights holder and will depend on the licence terms and conditions. RES does not store any materials itself but simply makes them more discoverable, so existing licensing schemes are unchanged

### **Will I be able to access the RES platform/s from home?**

The platform itself is accessible from any internet-connected device but there may be restrictions on the use of specific tools, products and materials. RES is a platform for discovery, but the details of how assets are accessed will depend on the specific tools being used, the policies of the rights holders who actually host and deliver the materials, and the licences held.

### **I am a teacher working with SEND children – will the RES platform provide content specifically for their needs?**

RES will index the widest range of resources for the widest possible range of users and this will include materials for SEND children, but its availability will depend on access to open

catalogues of relevant materials being published and available to be indexed by the RES aggregator.

### **Will the content disappear after a period of time?**

We understand that it can be frustrating when something you have been using disappears. The materials pointed to by RES are held by a wide range of institutions and some may take works offline for a variety of reasons, but because we are searching for items licensed for educational use this will happen far less often than it does when relying on YouTube clips.

### **Things to remember about resources in RES.**

#### **They are:**

- Persistent
- Citable
- Clipable
- Available in the first instance to over 18s, with teacher-mediated access for younger students
- Only available to those who have the correct permissions
- Sometimes this is everyone

#### **They are not:**

- A new BBC product or service

### **What stage are we at?**

We want to make RES the best we can. We are currently developing different prototypes for testing and hope to have platforms ready for late 2015.