

SCOTTISH TEXTILE HERITAGE ONLINE

MAPPING SCOTLAND'S TEXTILE HERITAGE

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Strategic Change Fund

- Funded by Scottish Government's Strategic Change Fund 2003-2004
- One of 13 projects
- Aim to promote strategic change through funding projects that delivered or tested sustainable outcomes
- £128,67 received

Scotland's Textile Heritage

- Scotland has a rich and varied textile heritage
- The industry has shaped the local culture and physical infrastructure
- Tweed in the Scottish Borders and Outer Hebrides
- Cashmere knitwear in Scottish Borders
- Fair Isle and Shetland knitwear in Northern Isles

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- Kashmir inspired shawls in Edinburgh and Paisley
 - Cotton in West of Scotland
 - Carpets
 - Jute and linen in Dundee
 - Whitework
 - Tartan
 - Textile education – Glasgow School of Art

Current Industry

- Some disappeared a long time ago – Paisley shawls by the 1860s
- 1950s-1960s – many businesses consolidated such as tweed and cotton
- Some still very vibrant – hand knitting, tartan, medical textiles, performance wear, print
- Higher Education – Glasgow School of Art, School of Textiles at HWU

Barriers to Access

- Location of records and objects often unknown because uncatalogued or in private hands
- Collections split between different repositories
- Wide range of relevant sources – business records, song, photographs, film, costume, fabric, machinery
- Different heritage sectors – archives, museums and libraries
- Collapse of the industry in 1980s led to a sudden influx of collections to heritage services with limited resources to store and catalogue them

Project Aims

- Survey of Scottish textile collections
- Overview of the strengths of Scotland's textile collections
- Increase access through web-based database with descriptions
- Image Gallery
- Explore scope for developing a national textiles collecting policy
- Build cross-sectoral partnerships

Project Aims

- Evaluation model for cross-sectoral documentation
- Evaluate the success of the methodology and potential application to other projects
- Possibility of use for design inspiration in current industry
- Use in Teaching and research
- Us in Tourism

Project Methodology

- 6 Project Partners – Heriot-Watt University, Glasgow School of Art, Scottish Borders Museum Service, Paisley Museum, Dundee University and Glasgow University Archive Services
- Established cross-sectoral Project Steering Group i.e. museum and archive staff

Project Team

- Three project staff based with different partners for one year – archivist, museum curator and textile conservator
- Ann Jones, Project Director based at Heriot-Watt University

Textile Collection

- 1998 Scottish College of Textiles merged with Heriot-Watt University to create the School of Textiles
- Based at Scottish Borders Campus in Galashiels
- Business records and pattern books from tweed mills
- Costume
- Furnishing fabric
- Tartan and highland dress
- Lead body for STHOL

Cataloguing Standards

- Two separate standards for two sectors
- Archives - international cataloguing standard ISAD (G)
- Museum – British standard Spectrum
- Compromise – used Research Support Libraries Schema for both sectors
- Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus for subject indexing

Software

- Too time-consuming to create a bespoke system
- Used off-the shelf database for website
- CALM – widely used in UK for both archives and museums
- Can easily add images to catalogue entries

Survey

- Questionnaire to repositories
- Followed up by visit
- Good response
- Scottish Museums Council audit used to target museums
- All Scottish archives contacted
- Used National Register of Archives to select repositories in England

User Groups

- Three user groups – Scottish Borders
Campus of Heriot-Watt University, Glasgow
School of Art, Dundee
- Feedback on website
- Assistance on creating glossary
- More images!

Completed website

- Detailed descriptions for project partner collections
- More concise descriptions for repositories returning survey
- Total of 3,000 descriptions
- Image Gallery of 400 images – section for each Project Partner with image metadata using Dublin Core Standard



Images



Online Resources

- Short essays about aspects of the industry
- Glossary
- Industrial map
- Links or other relevant websites or portals
- Advice



Text Only Website				
The Project	Partners & Collections	Online Resources	Image Gallery	Contact
				
An Overview of the Scottish Textile Heritage Online Project	Partners and collections involved in the Scottish Textile Heritage Online project	Inspirational resources and links for your research	Rich and varied images from Scottish textile collections	Contact the project partners

Scottish Textile Heritage Online Home Page

Scottish Textile Heritage Online was one of 13 projects supported by the Scottish Executive's Strategic Change Fund, administered by the Scottish Museums Council. The overall aim of the Fund was to promote strategic change through funding projects that delivered or tested sustainable outcomes.

This innovative pilot project for the first time provides a one-stop guide to Scottish textile collections. This website contains a searchable database of approximately 3000 descriptions of textile related museum and archive collections and objects, along with a gallery of some 400 images. An online resources section contains essays on a wide range of textile related subjects, and maps show the distribution of the textile collections across Scotland.

Evaluation

- Did we achieve the project aims?
- Groundbreaking – first project mapping Scotland's textile heritage
- Successful evaluation model for cross-sectoral documentation
- Identified need for focus on contemporary collecting
- Project methodology successful and application possible in other areas

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- Developed cross-sectoral links – Scottish Textile Steering Group established to continue developing networks among repositories holding textile collections
 - “Virtual” re-connection of collections split between different repositories e.g. Needlework Development Scheme

Less Successful

- Website now out of date
- No further funding available to develop it further
- Developing national collecting policy difficult – each institution has its own interests
- Developing commercial licensing programme not addressed
 - Copyright issues
 - Internal policies for own commercial exploitation

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- Website not as well used as possible because descriptions not picked up in a Google search
 - Domain name lost and had to be changed

Conclusion

- Successful in mapping extent and location of textile collections
- Very valuable network of personal contacts
- Highlights problems in finite project funding and sustaining projects once completed

Project Report

- <http://scottishtextileheritage.org.uk>
- Full project report available online with appendices for a full explanation of project methodology and cataloguing guidelines.