

## IWO Technical Meeting 5th November 2013

**Held at:** University of Sussex

**Present:** Vinita Damodaran, University of Sussex (VD)

Rob Iliffe, University of Sussex (RI)

Mike Hawkins, Newton and Casebook projects (MH)

Richard Gartner, King's College London (RG)

Anna Jordanous, King's College London (AJ)

The meeting was called to discuss the technical issues behind a possible future project to create a digital archive as a follow-on project to the IWO Network.

MH suggested that we should be particularly interested in allowing users to add data and metadata to the materials

VD suggested a pilot project based on the Hooker archive at Kew - these have been recently transcribed and some metadata generated: Kew are willing to provide transcriptions of these. This project could concentrate on metadata architectures, interfacing etc.

VD reported that 30 responses have been received from potentially useful archives, and a coarse-grained survey of two archives - Dehradun FRI archive and Jesuit archive in Delhi. have been completed.

It was agreed that we could use the Hooker correspondence as the core of an archive for a pilot project. This contains personal data, meteorological data etc. RG and AJ suggested this would mesh well with their work on the Defra-funded DTC (Demonstration Test Catchments) archive. There would also be the possibility of integrating ACRE datasets.

We could also use the small Survey of India collection as well as the Hooker correspondence.

There could be some challenges including:-

- Scientists would want visualisations of flora fauna etc - humanities specialists have different aims
- Multiple levels of granularity

A possible timescale for this would be around 18 months.

RI suggested a parallel project to do a large scale digitisation of materials.

Other possibilities for collections include the Wallich collections at BL and Natural History Museum London, and Botanical Survey of India in Calcutta.

Next steps

- 1) Email Kew about using transcriptions of Hooker correspondence in pilot project (VD)
- 2) Get firm commitments from institutions in India - eg BSI, FSI, SOI, NAI, (VD)
- 3) Arrange meeting with a small group of potential partners with remaining AHRC money early February (VD)
- 4) Look for potential funders for projects - particularly those interested in research infrastructures and the digitization of at-risk materials (VD)

We will aim to put a grant bid together in March-May 2014.