Crowdsourcing with IIIF at The British Library
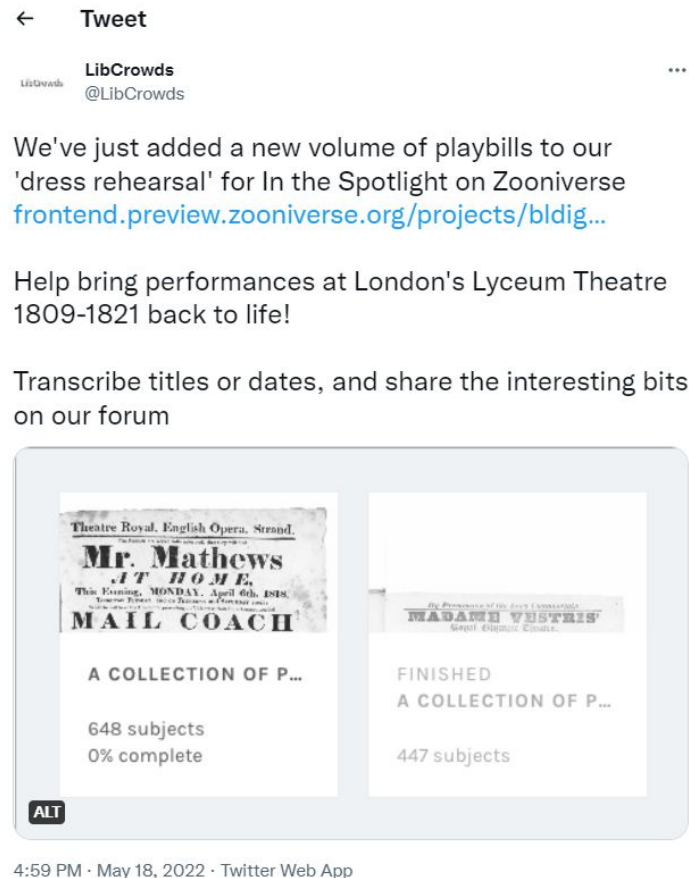
IIIF Conference, June 2022

Rossitza Atanassova, Digital Curator, British Library
Mia Ridge, Digital Curator, British Library

Overview

- How has the British Library used IIIF in crowdsourcing in the past?

- Why we turned to Zooniverse?

- What we did and what is available now

- Next steps and how you can be involved

- Q&A

@britishlibrary IIIF history

In 2014, the British Library commissioned IIIF work on what became the Universal Viewer

The Universal Viewer was designed to replace multiple existing viewers on the British Library websites

Publishing items with IIIF manifests and images enabled other uses within the Library, including re-use in crowdsourcing projects on https://www.libcrowds.com/

https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/2017/09/in-the-spotlight-application-design.html

https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/2017/11/crowdsourcing-using-iiif-and-web-annotations.html

Crowdsourcing projects from the British Library

| 2,985 VOLUNTEERS | 265,649 CONTRIBUTIONS | 175 PROJECTS |

Project Collections

LibCrowds is a platform for hosting experimental crowdsourcing projects aimed at improving access to the diverse collections held at the British Library.

CONVERT-A-CARD
Transform printed card catalogues into a searchable online database.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Help bring past performances from the British Library's historic playbills collection to life.

Playbills '*In the Spotlight*'

Collection of over 230,000 printed sheets in 1,000 volumes

Minimal cataloguing: 'A collection of playbills from miscellaneous Plymouth theatres 1796-1882'

No information about individual playbills, performances, people

5

Designing for productivity and engagement

Pulled in IIIF images and metadata

Identifier: Digital Store Playbills 263

Title: A collection of playbills from miscellaneous Plymouth theatres 1796-1882

Place: Plymouth

Publisher: s.n

Date: 1796-1882.

Language: English

Link to catalogue record: View the catalogue record

Citation: *A collection of playbills from miscellaneous Plymouth theatres 1796-1882.*(Plymouth: s.n, 1796-1882.)<http://access.bl.uk/item/viewer/ark:/81055/vdc_100022589092.0x000002>

Holding repository: Held by The British Library

Public Domain

https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/

OK

In the Spotlight produced W3C annotations


```
"body": [
  {
    "type": "TextualBody",
    "purpose": "describing",
    "value": "The Devil to Pay",
    "format": "text/plain"
  },
  {
    "type": "TextualBody",
    "purpose": "tagging",
    "value": "title"
  },
  {
    "type": "SpecificResource",
    "purpose": "classifying",
    "source": "http://purl.org/dc/terms/title"
```

In the Spotlight on LibCrowds.com

- Pybossa backend manages the validation of results
- Customised interface with Vue.js
- Results are available immediately
- Metadata added to item viewer by Collections Metadata team
- Over 2,800 registered volunteers internationally
- Over 265,000 contributions completed 157 sets of playbills.
- When live, has thousands of contributions weekly
- But - **hard to maintain without Research Software Engineers**

Data
Download all task and contribution data.

Type to search by name

Annotations | Projects | Reports

NAME	↑↓	PROGRESS	ACTIONS
Mark Titles: Theatre Royal, Margate 1796-1797		100	Download ▾
Mark Titles: Miscellaneous Plymouth theatres 1796-1882 (Vol. 1)		100	Download ▾
Mark Titles: Miscellaneous Plymouth theatres 1796-1882 (Vol. 2)		100	Download ▾
Transcribe Titles: Theatre Royal, Margate 1796-1797		100	Download ▾
Transcribe Genres: Theatre Royal, Margate 1796-1797		100	Download ▾
Transcribe Dates: Theatre Royal, Margate 1796-1797		100	Download ▾

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Why we turned to Zooniverse?

- Over 2.5 million registered volunteers

- 90+ currently active projects

- Project Builder: https://www.zooniverse.org/lab

- Provision of user-friendly data analysis tools and apps, eg. ALICE (Aggregate Line Inspector and Collaborative Editor)

- Interest in collaborations to make use of existing community standards, eg IIIF

- British Library already uses Zooniverse:

- https://www.bl.uk/projects/crowdsourcing-at-the-british-library

IIIF + Zooniverse = awesome

Zooniverse Talk

Zooniverse Talk > Project Building > Using IIIF manifests to load items into Zooniverse subject sets?

Search the Zooniverse... 🔍

Using IIIF manifests to load items into Zooniverse subject sets?

Unsubscribe   You're receiving notifications from this discussion because you've joined it (daily email)

⏮ First   ← Previous   **Page** 1 ▾ **of 1**   Next →   Last ⏭

miaridge
@miaridge

February 24th 2021, 9:35 am

My institution uses IIIF (http://iiif.io/) to publish collection items. In the past, we've used the manifests to load items into a crowdsourcing interface for page-by-page (or canvas-by-canvas in IIIF terms) tasks. Using IIIF this way means we can draw images and metadata directly from the main access server and don't need to store them separately for crowdsourcing, which reduced our costs at the time but mightn't be as much of an issue for Zooniverse projects. It also means curators can easily add new items to tasks via the IIIF manifest URL.

Has anyone tried using IIIF manifests to load subject sets into Zooniverse?

👍 Helpful (0)   ↩ Reply   % Link   ⚠ Report   ✏ Edit   ✖ Delete

What we did: data import from IIIF manifest

- Project delivered by Mia Ridge (British Library), Samantha Blickhan (Zooniverse/Adler Planetarium), Chris Lintott (Zooniverse/Oxford), Jim O'Donnell (Zooniverse/Oxford)

What we did: Annotate a manifest with annotation collections

Annotate a canvas with a date

Annotate a fragment of a canvas (*x, y, width, height*) with a performance title

```
items:
  ▼ 0:
      type:          "Annotation"
      motivation:    "tagging"
    ▼ body:
        type:        "TextualBody"
        value:       "18190202"
        language:    "en"
        format:      "text/plain"
    ▼ target:
        type:        "SpecificResource"
      ▼ source:
          ▼ id:      "https://api.bl.uk/metadata/iiif/ark:/81055/vdc_10002258917
            type:    "Canvas"
          ▼ partOf:
              ▼ id:  "https://api.bl.uk/metadata/iiif/ark:/81055/vdc_100022589176.0x000002/manifest.json"
                type: "Manifest"
      ▼ id:          "https://zooniverse.github.io/iiif-annotations/bldigital/in-the-spotlight/consensusDates/0"
```

```
items:
  ▼ 0:
      type:          "Annotation"
      motivation:    "tagging"
    ▼ body:
        type:        "TextualBody"
      ▼ value:       "Rochester, or, King Charles the Second's Merry Days."
        language:    "en"
        format:      "text/plain"
    ▼ target:
        type:        "SpecificResource"
      ▼ source:
          ▼ id:      "https://api.bl.uk/metadata/iiif/ark:/81055/vdc_100022589176.0x0001c3"
            type:    "Canvas"
          ▼ partOf:
              ▼ id:  "https://api.bl.uk/metadata/iiif/ark:/81055/vdc_100022589176.0x000002/manifest.json"
                type: "Manifest"
      ▼ selector:
          type:      "FragmentSelector"
          conformsTo: "http://www.w3.org/TR/media-frags/"
          value:     "xywh=570,1472,1814,314"
      ▼ id:          "https://zooniverse.github.io/iiif-annotations/bldigital/in-the-spotlight/titles/7"
```

In the Spotlight

Welcome to our alpha version! We're offering a sneak peek into our rehearsal process as we migrate In the Spotlight to Zooniverse. Your comments and questions will help improve this project!

In the Spotlight

Help us test In the Spotlight on Zooniverse

mia 2 Mar

We haven't had the resources to maintain a standalone site, so we've looked into moving In the Spotlight onto Zooniverse, the well-known citizen science and citizen history platform.

If you're familiar with how things worked here, we'd especially welcome your feedback as we move things over to Zooniverse.

For now, we have a 'mark and transcribe titles' task and a 'transcribe the date' task. In future, we could add 'genre classification', or ask folk to record the location of theatres (especially in 'miscellaneous' volumes, or in locations where e.g. the local Theatre Royal had different locations over time.

You can check out our work in progress at https://frontend.preview.zooniverse.org/projects/bldigital/in-the-spotlight

You can leave a comment on the Talk pages there, or on this thread (or email me directly if you prefer).

👍 christian likes this.

Log In to Reply

⌃ Original Post

1 of 1 post
March 2022

⌄ Now

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Help bring past performances from the British Library's historic playbills collection to life.

LEARN MORE ›

GET STARTED!

Transcribe dates - help us put these playbills into historical context by noting the first performance date mentioned. A quick task!

Mark and transcribe titles - the titles of plays and other performances occur in different locations and sizes relative to the other text on a playbill. Please draw an outline around titles then transcribe them. A longer task, depending how many titles there are.

35% COMPLETE·SET SELECTION
Mark and transcribe titles ›

45% COMPLETE·SET SELECTION
Transcribe dates ›

Documentation: how to add media to Zooniverse projects via IIIF manifests #16

⊙ Open **mialondon** opened this issue 4 hours ago · 0 comments

---

mialondon commented 4 hours ago · edited ▾   Contributor   ...

Drafting documentation to share at the IIIF conference....

   1. Get the manifest link

I copied the manifest address I wanted, in this case from: 'A collection of playbills from Lyceum Theatre 1809-1821.

A note for using British Library manifest links:
The 'IIIF' logo on the 'share' dialogue has the manifest link.

Copying that manifest link gives you a long version e.g.
https://api.bl.uk/metadata/iiif/ark:/81055/vdc_100022589296.0x000002/manifest.json?
manifest=https://api.bl.uk/metadata/iiif/ark:/81055/vdc_100022589296.0x000002/manifest.json

But I only need the second half of the URL so I chopped off the part up to the '=' sign to get:

https://api.bl.uk/metadata/iiif/ark:/81055/vdc_100022589296.0x000002/manifest.json

   2. Log into Zooniverse (this assumes you have appropriate permissions on the project)

   3. Go to the special link to import IIIF manifests as Zooniverse subject sets: https://www.zooniverse.org/lab/xxx/subject-sets/iiif -
     your project will have a unique number that you will need to copy into the 'xxx' part of this link.

   4. Paste my IIIF manifest link into the box

Assignees
No one assigned

Labels
None yet

Projects
None yet

Milestone
No milestone

Development
No branches or pull requests

1 participant

Next steps: how to get involved

- Check the documentation at https://zooniverse.github.io/iiif-annotations/docs/Add-a-manifest/

- Additional project partners wanted (institutional/content variety)

- Task type prioritisation (e.g. marking tasks, structured data, etc.)

- Options for reviewing annotations before export

- https://github.com/Living-with-machines/zooniverse-analysis-workshop

Zooniverse: how to download and analyse your task annotations

`CO` Open in Colab

Materials for a British Library, Digital Scholarship "hack and yack" workshop.

Zooniverse is probably the world's most popular crowdsourcing platform, used by dozens of cultural heritage organisations. But the resulting annotations from Zooniverse can be hard to use 'as is'. Do you want to learn how to turn Zooniverse data into something you can use in catalogues, on web pages or in research? Then this session is for you! Zooniverse: how to download and analyse your task annotations will introduce the widely used Zooniverse platform and the services it offers, and share new developments in using the Library's IIIF items on Zooniverse. Then we get hands-on! You'll learn how to process your annotations to obtain a clean and readable spreadsheet for your project.

If you are new to Jupyter Notebooks, may we suggest Daniel van Strien's "Introduction to Jupyter Notebooks: the weird and the wonderful".

Aims

- Learn how to download Zooniverse data
- Learn how to run a Jupyter notebook
- Process your zooniverse data and obtain a `.csv` file

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We want your feedback!

- https://frontend.preview.zooniverse.org/projects/bldigital/in-the-spotlight

- https://blog.zooniverse.org/2022/04/20/fun-with-iiif/

- https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/2022/04/importing-images-into-zooniverse-with-a-iiif-manifest-introducing-an-experimental-feature.html

- BL email: digitalresearch@bl.uk

- Zooniverse email: contact@zooniverse.org

- **Thank you!**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT TEAM

calgar
@CALGAR
COLLABORATOR
EXPERT

Jim O'Donnell
@EATYOURGREENS
COLLABORATOR

blicksam
@BLICKSAM
COLLABORATOR

miaridge
@MIARIDGE
COLLABORATOR
EXPERT

Graham Jevon
@GJEVON
COLLABORATOR

BLDigital
@BLDIGITAL
OWNER

BRITISH LIBRARY