

CONTRIBUTION TO SYMPOSIUM ON: design and pedagogy of networked learning

TITLE OF PAPER: THE CHCC Project: Developing the Collection of Contemporary and Historical Census Data and Related Materials into a Major Learning and Teaching Resource

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SESSION TYPE: Workshop

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NUMBER OF WORDS: 499

FIVE KEY WORDS: Census, Learning and Teaching resources.

#### PROPOSAL:

Through a number of strategic investments by both the JISC and the ESRC the UK academic community has access to a Collection of Historical and Contemporary Census data and related resources (CHCC), which are available in digital format. Whilst individual datasets have been extensively used in research they have been significantly underused in learning and teaching. To address this, the CHCC Project, has been funded by [JISC](#) under its *Developing the DNER for Learning and Teaching* initiative. The project involves six partners from four UK Universities and has been running since October 2000.

The primary aim of the project is to develop the collection of historical and contemporary UK census materials (CHCC) into a major learning and teaching resource. The key objectives are to:

- Promote increased and more effective use of network based data services for problem based learning and student project work across a broad cross section of learning and teaching programmes
- Develop an integrated web-based learning and teaching system that links together data extraction and visualization/exploration tools with comprehensive learning and teaching resources
- Significantly increase the Census user base by increasing use of the CHCC in learning and teaching
- Build new user communities by promoting increased awareness of the CHCC and its learning and teaching potential
- Improve the productivity of teachers by significantly reducing the overheads required to incorporate Census data related resources into learning and teaching programmes
- Improve access to key primary data sources and related resources
- Minimise delays in getting the key 2001 Census outputs used in learning and teaching

This workshop will focus on the learning and teaching materials that are being developed to support wider use of historical (nineteenth century) and contemporary (1971 – present) Census datasets.

The learning materials ('units'), covering the whole spectrum of census topics, are being developed by the project team, and commissioned from distinguished authors who have used Census data in their teaching. The units will encourage a 'pick and mix' approach, enabling lecturers to choose a selection for online or classroom based teaching. Lecturers may choose from a portion of a single unit to several units built into a module. Such flexibility was a key requirement behind the development of the units. As a response to feedback from our initial consultation workshop in January 2001 (<http://www.chcc.ac.uk/workshop/feedback.html>), the units can be **customised locally** by teachers and lecturers, providing credit is given to the original author of the materials.

This workshop will build on experience gained by the project team in running other CHCC consultation exercises. Participants will be pointed to the units that have already been developed and asked to work through one or more of these. Time will be made available for feedback and discussion. We are currently looking for teachers who are willing to pilot any of the units developed in their teaching programmes, and hope that some participants will agree to help us in this role.

For further information on the CHCC Project please visit the website at [www.chcc.ac.uk/](http://www.chcc.ac.uk/)