

Case study / ResourceSpace +

Historic England



Historic England is the UK government agency that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. We do this by championing historic places, identifying and protecting our heritage, supporting change, understanding historic places and providing expertise at a local level.

DAM Processes

Historic England has a large and well-structured Archive alongside a range of functions where digital asset management is partial and fragmented. Data flows into and out of the Archive are constricted, while asset flows around the organisation have been unstructured at best, often with insufficient understanding of 3rd party rights in the content. This has resulted in silos of creators and compilers holding pots of useful content in isolation from potential audiences.

Our plan for DAMs

Our aim was to bring together cleared Archive and other content with a single point of access so staff can be assured they can use what they see. It was also planned as a point of deposit for disparate content sources, with means of applying comprehensible caveats and restrictions where usage conditions are uncertain. Finally, we wanted it to be an enabler for flows of assets between departments, notably into and out of the Archive, as well as a means of delivering content to third party partners.



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What ResourceSpace has done for us

We have been able to offer a model for capture, storage and retrieval of digital assets, which has gained wide traction across the organisation. We now have over 500 internal users signed up to our application (known internally as “Lighthouse”). There are multiple internal content providers adding digital material, and controlled means of delivering content, both internally and externally. The project has also been a catalyst for thinking about how digital assets are valued, stored and transmitted around Historic England, and to our partners and customers.



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We're still in the early stages of adoption, largely focussed on still images so far. Some benefits for colleagues have shown already, some more are planned and we expect other benefits to flow organically as adoption and familiarity with the system broadens.

Next steps

We're adding more content and building systems to accelerate the volume of assets we make available from our Archive. We're also adding new groups of content providers from within Historic England, including broadening our range from still images, to video and audio content. We're working on a cold storage model so that larger “master” assets are stored for the long term in carbon-efficient ways, while access is provided to smaller reuseable surrogates through Resourcespace, eliminating the need for duplication in storage. We're also exploring ways of integrating with internal file stores for databases and our website content management system.

About ResourceSpace

ResourceSpace is open source, which we like, and has a lot of really useful documentation. It has a huge range of configurable options, which we're still exploring. We've also adopted some of the range of 3rd party plugins and have been able to hook-up in-house workflows to support our processes. Resourcespace have been very helpful with configuration advice and are responsive to the few issues we've raised with them. There is also a clear roadmap for development, which enables us to plan for the future.





Ready to take the next step?

Book your free demo below and we'll give you a 30-minute tour of the platform and demonstrate all of the features and benefits other custodians of museum collections have found to be so invaluable.

[Get started](#)

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