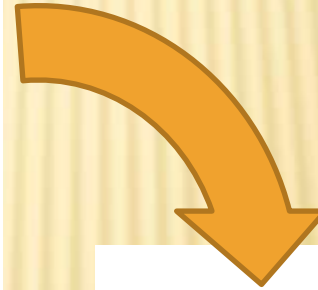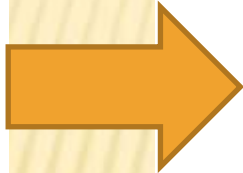# ETHER

The Politics of Liberating South Africa's Archives Online

Laura Kate Gibson
The ETHER Initiative, South Africa
Roger Layton Associates

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Digitisation

Digital Archives in South Africa

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Less this...

...& more this
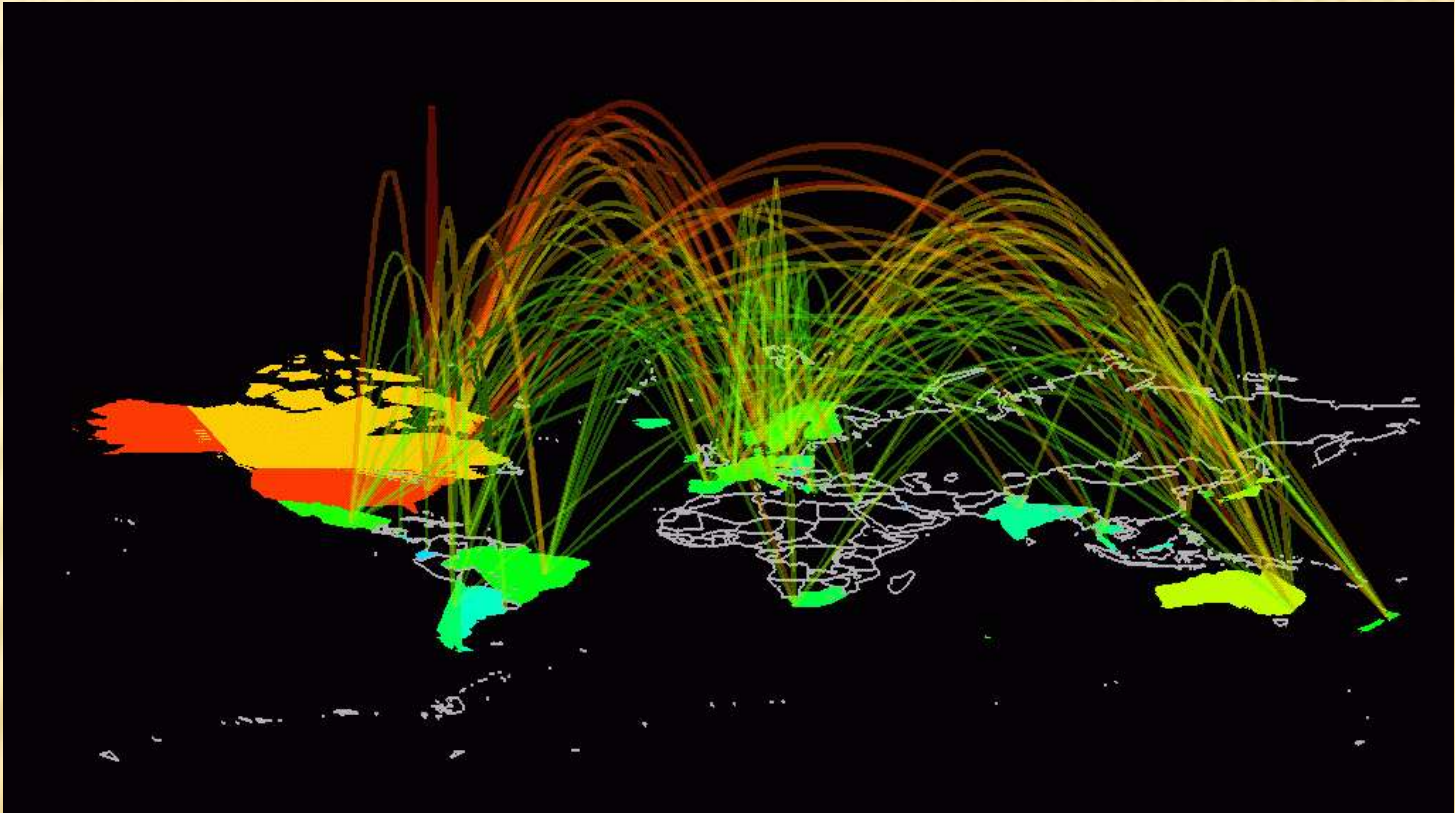
Mass communication in the Information Age means marginal communities can participate in global discussions...

(Arjun Appadurai)

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Online Access & the Digital Divide

Source: Turner (2002: 32)

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A Digital *Difference*

In **South Africa:**

- **90 %** of the population has access to a cell phone
- **57%** of mobile web users **never or infrequently use a computer** to access the internet.
- In 2011, Vodacom estimated that **92%** of its users have a **web enabled 'phone**

xtownx
the local network

KOWIE HISTORY MUSUEM

About us

Kowie History Museum is a little treasure chest of Port Alfred history. The exhibits range from Xhosa culture, early settler history to artifacts from the numerous shipwrecks along the coast.

With all the exciting outdoor activities in town it can't be called a major attraction, but you will be warmly welcomed.

Our Exhibition

In the museum you will find exhibits of most aspects of Port Alfred, including -

The 19th century attempt of devlo
Port Alfred as a holiday destinati
43 Air School
The NSRI
Xhosa tradition and culture
Victorian household items
Extensive references to the 1820
The Blaawkrantz Rail Disaster

It aslo boasts a large collection o shells, insects and egg cups.

Useful Information

Opening hours:
Tuesday to Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Admission costs:
R10 - adults, children under 10 free

Address:
Pascoe Crescent, Port Alfred, 6170

Directions:
Turn right into Pascoe Crescent off Albany Road if travelling from East London or Left if travelling from Port Elizabeth, then turn right after Magistrate's Court
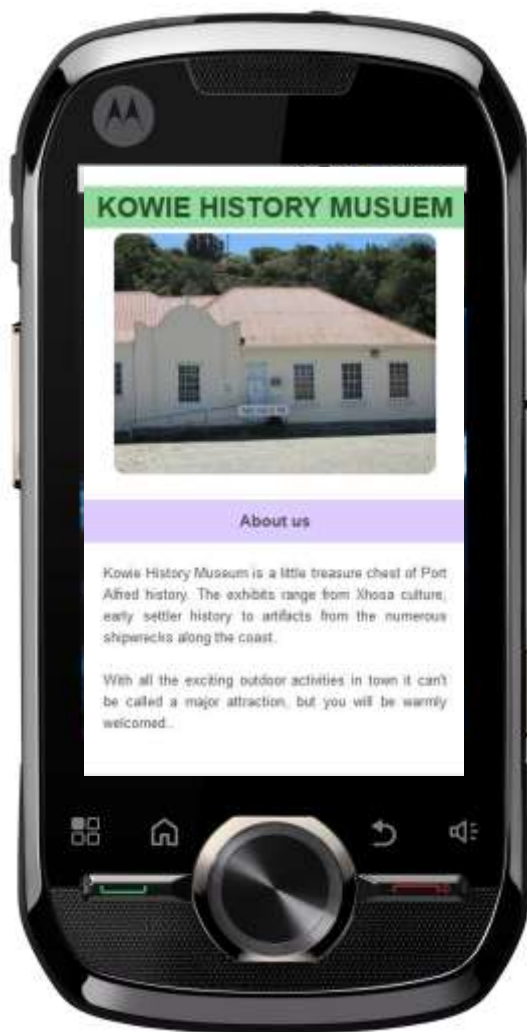
Contact Details

Curator: Dick Schuurman

Tel: 046.624.4713
Cell: 083.438.1029

Email (Enquiries):
stoneshill@hotmail.com

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Access Levels

Request an account
We'd like to get to know you

Personal Information

First name *

Last name *

Email address *

Retype your email address *

Tell us a little about yourself

About your Request

Why are you requesting an account? *

How did you hear about the RRN?

☐ By checking this box you agree to conform to the RRN Terms of Use. *

Create Account request   Cancel

Items   Projects   Discussions   Media   Knowledge   Help

RRN » Items » Masks from the "Northwest Coast" Region

Hannah Turner   Mail   Logout

Results (1,555)   Search

Found 1,555 masks x from the Northwest Coast Region. Refine Search

type: mask   Clear Search   More Settings   Help

Mask A0200   Mask A0200   Mask A5200   Mask A5200

Mask A0014   Mask A0017   Mask A1700   Mask A1800

My Selected Items (25)

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Multiple Interpretations

Ask a question

🔓 Public

Let the RRN community answer your questions

| Post a Question | Message a User Privately |

🔵 Help ▼

Shared Knowledge

🔓 Public

Share your knowlege of this item with the RRN community

| Share Knowledge | Contact us Privately |

🔵 Help ▼

Shared Knowledge

Hide Tip

Submitting information about items on the RRN is a great way to add missing information to a record or to notify the institution that holds the item of inaccuracies. You can even attach photos or documents to your submission.

Language & Ontology

Artefact (E 1915.30) Anth

TAG: Club (MAA: 1992-12-01)
NUM: 1
KEYWORD: Weapons; Ceremonial Objects
MATERIAL: Metal; Copper
DESCRIPTION: A very heavy hand club of hammered copper, both faces of the blade are decorated with an incised pattern and the club terminates in a bird-like head design with an open beak. A short leather thong extends from a hole at the base of the bird-like head. The club is brownish in colour and shows sign of wear around the neck, it also has a beaten surface.; Good ' adhered old label notes " Haida club ([?] maker [word unclear] copper) Nootka Sound [?] unclear word] Gerf r Bevan" R.Hand 05/2007' (MAA: 1992-12-01)
CULTURAL GROUP: C=Northwest Coast; T=?Haida; ?Nootka; ?Nuu-Chah-Nulth
SOURCE: Bevan.Professor.A.A   **SOURCE DATE:** - - 1915
PLACE: Americas; North America; Canada; British Columbia (MAA: 1992-12-01)
PERIOD:
CONTEXT: The catalogue card calls the hand club a Haida hand club, but gives the provenance as Nootka Sound. The whalebone equivalents of this club were typical of the Nootka, and therefore it seems more likely that the Nootka provenance is correct, especially with the additional " Vancouver Island" on the catalogue card (G.Crowther). The original European tribal names and, where possible, current tribal names have both been given in separate GLT fields. The club was mis-numbered as 1915.25, the description of 1915.30 coincides with the club, while the description for 1915.25 is for a

"The Semantic Web":
Making Connections between Collections

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Conclusions

- Digitisation is NOT simple!
- **Challenges:** physical access to ICT; ownership of digital items; loss of control over interpretations; language and ontology of communication; sensitive knowledge.
- **Increased access**: greater potential for engagement; facilitates new interpretations; produces new knowledge.
- Need to take into account **digital *difference*** and seek local solutions, such as mini webpages
- Carefully conducted digitisation projects might further **democratise** South Africa's archives.

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Thank You

The ETHER Initiative & XtownX

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