

Digitally connected communities: the values of crowd-based collaborations

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Presentation of 20 minutes

This presentation will discuss the uses and values of crowd-based methods in a heritage 'ecology', via an in-depth analysis and review of the MicroPasts project. Over the past 24 months, MicroPasts has drawn on crowdsourcing, together with other web technologies (e.g. a community forum and social media), to enable collaborative research into the human past that has involved universities, museums and over 1,500 citizens worldwide. The paper will apply a public value framework that relates benefits for society and heritage to ethical challenges, issues of capacity and sustainability. Conclusions will detail how the dimensions, measures, indicators and evaluative methods used and the evidence generated can support other individuals, groups and institutions in the UK who work with heritage and are interested in developing crowdsourcing approaches.