

# Collecting Emerging Formats

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DPC:WAPWG – 16 January 2020



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# Collecting Approach to Complex Digital Publications

## Outline:

- What we collect
- Why we collect it
- How we collect it

# 1. WHAT

# The Emerging Formats Project

“The term '**emerging formats**' refers to types of publication that are in scope to collect under the UK's Non-Print Legal Deposit Regulations, but whose content and structure are more challenging compared to those currently collected.”

(<https://www.bl.uk/projects/emerging-formats>)

Two year project (April 2017 – March 2019) to:

- Identify publications that are in scope to collect
- Identify and explore the collection management needs of these more-complex digital publications



# What do we mean by ‘emerging formats’?

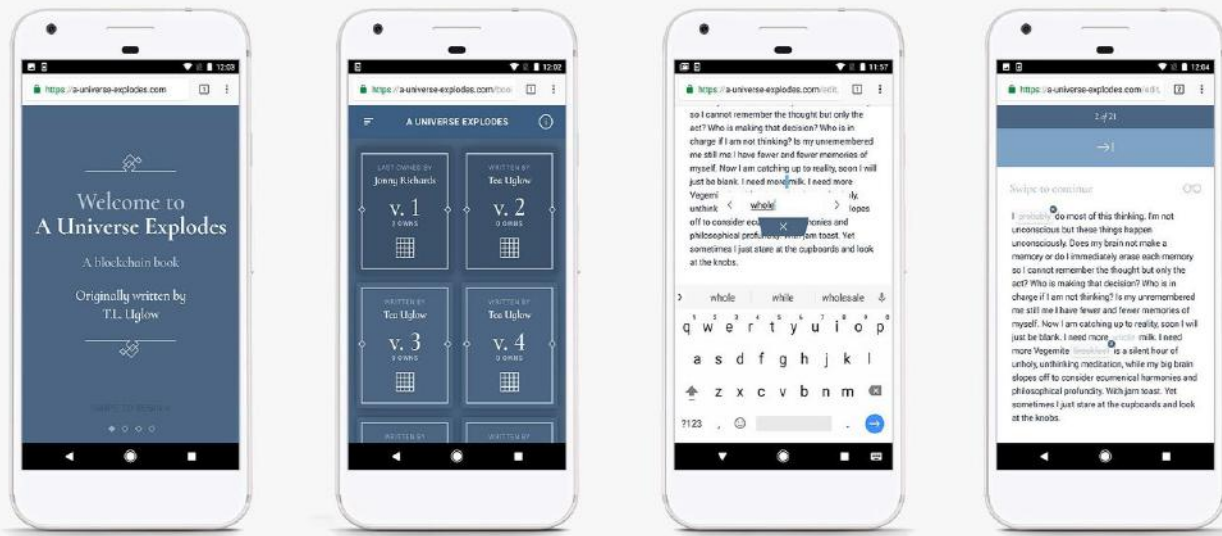
- Born-digital with no print counterpart
- Often consist of more than one media type
- Device dependent
- Comprised of non-standard format and metadata types
- Not typically part of existing collections
- At risk of obsolescence

(Source: Smith, C., & Cooke, I. (2017). Emerging Formats: Complex digital media and its impact on the UK Legal Deposit Libraries. *Alexandria*, 27(3), 175–187)

# Focused on three types of content:

- Web-based interactive narratives
- Book as mobile apps
- Structured data

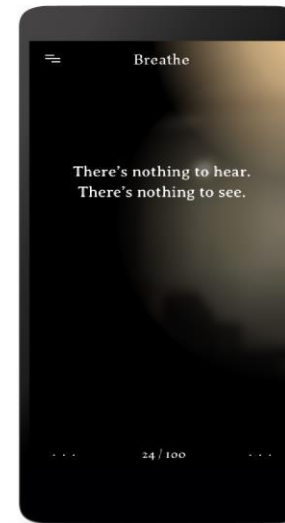
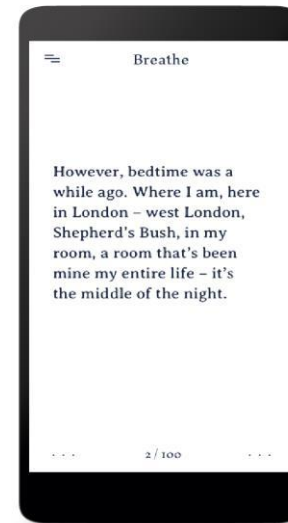
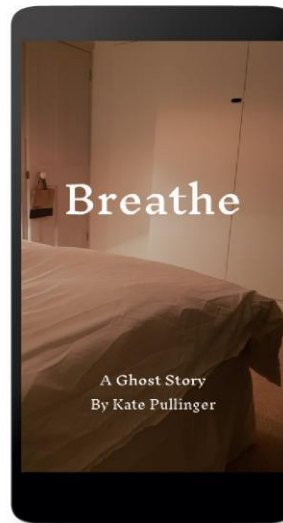




<http://editionsatplay.withgoogle.com>

CHAPTER 2

*Christ I'm careless.*



## 2. WHY



# UK Non-Print Legal Deposit (NPLD)



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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Home Understanding Legislation EU Legislation and UK Law Browse Legislation Changes To Legislation Search Legislation

Title:  Year:  Number:  Type: All Legislation (excluding draft) Search

Advanced Search

## The Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print Works) Regulations 2013

UK Statutory Instruments ▶ 2013 No. 777 ▶ Table of contents

Table of Contents Content Explanatory Memorandum Impact Assessments More Resources

Plain View Print Options

**What Version**

Latest available (Revised)

**Original (As made)**

Opening Options

More Resources

**Status:** This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

Collapse all -

Introductory Text

**PART 1 Introductory**

Collapse -

- In April 2013 the Regulations come into force
- UK Legal Deposit Libraries have been collecting various types of born-digital publications since 2013:
  - eBooks
  - eJournals
  - archived websites
  - geospatial datasets
  - digital sheet music

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/777/contents/made>

# Benefits for libraries:

- NPLD helps mitigate the possibility of a digital black hole
- Ensure we represent the changing nature and diversity of the UK digital culture
- Develop capability that can be applied to more 'mainstream' collections
- Share knowledge and experience with other cultural institutions to address related challenges

# Benefits for researchers:

- Ensure long-term preservation of complex digital publications
- Provide a collection of original and innovative publications
- Support access to emerging formats

# Benefits for publishers and creators:

- Ensure their works can be collected and made accessible over the longer term
- Provide evidence of past uses of technologies
- Provide examples of creative and technical innovation

# 3. HOW

How to collect complex digital objects in a way that ensures preservation and access over the long-term?

At the acquisition stage we have to consider:

**users expectations and needs** (to determine what)

+

**technical complexities and dependencies** (to determine how)

**GOAL:** maximise long-term reusability & provide a meaningful access experience

# We collect:

- Selectively:
  - High cost
  - Low level of standardisation
- Under Non-Print Legal Deposit regulations
- Following prioritisation criteria agreed upon by all LDLs:
  - Risk of loss identified
  - Engagement from creators and publishers
  - Existing capability that we can build on

# NPLD collection methods

Collection method	Offline publications	Browser-based publications
File transfer	✓	
Download via access code or password	✓	
Web harvesting tools		✓
Description as a collection method	✓	✓



# Challenges...

## *Identify:*

- Horizon scanning
- Geographical scope
- Authorship and copyright definition
- Digital publishing environment is in continual change

## *Collect:*

- DRM
- Multiple versions
- Partial capture
- Lack of standards for how content is produced

## *Preserve:*

- Technically and structurally complex publications
- Strong hardware and software dependencies

# ...and more challenges

## *Describe:*

- Lack of standards for how metadata is produced
- Publications consist of multiple media types

## *Access:*

- Access to be provided within Legal Deposit Regulations
- Strong hardware and software dependencies for access
- Hardware collection and maintenance
- Re-use

The challenges presented by these publications are not unique to Legal Deposit Libraries, but cultural organisations worldwide

# What we collected

- Interactive Narratives collection on the UK Web Archive



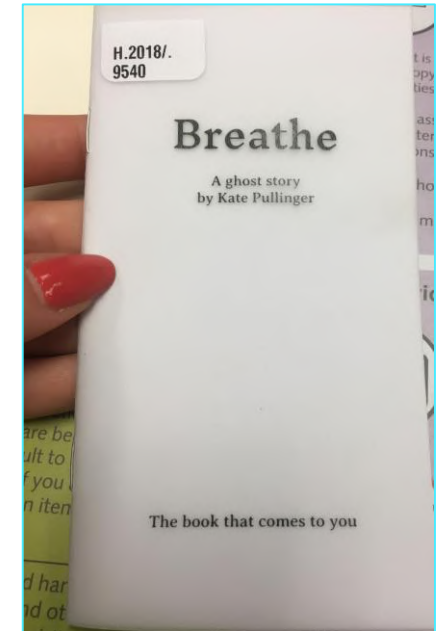
<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/en/ukwa/collection/1836>



80 Days © inkle

- Inkle's *80 Days* mobile app (Android app & PC-compatible version of the app)

- Contextual information



*Breathe* © Kate Pullinger, Editions at Play. Photo by Giulia Carla Rossi

# Next steps

- Create new collections on the UK Web Archive + keep adding to existing collections
- Further research into discovery and description and developing a standard for catalogue records
- Providing access to offline emerging formats
- Identify new formats to consider for collection and related challenges (social media, chatbots, XR, AI, fanfictions, etc.)

# Thank you!

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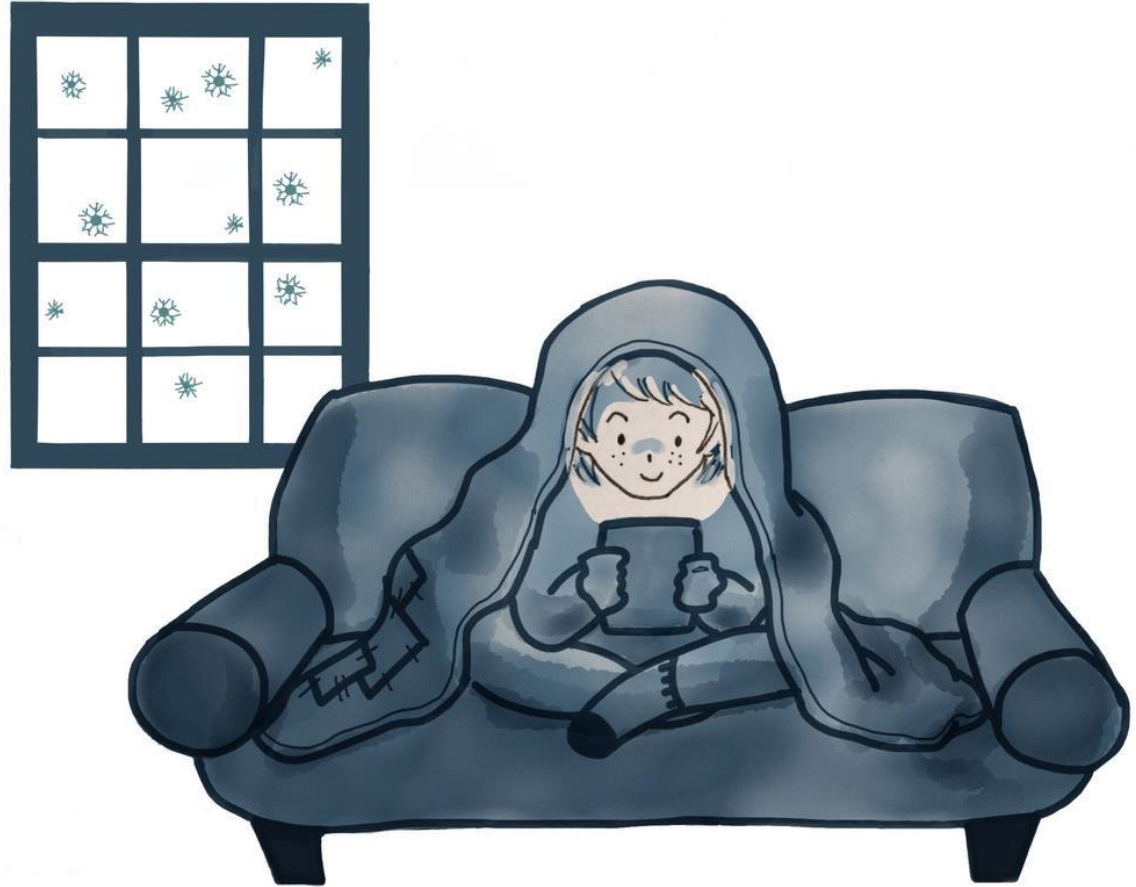


Image by Giulia Carla Rossi

Emerging Formats webpage:

<https://www.bl.uk/projects/emerging-formats>