

Jodi Awards

2010

Press Release

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Jodi Awards spreading their wings in 2010

Nominations are now being sought for the prestigious Jodi Awards from museums, galleries, libraries, archives, heritage sites and disability organisations internationally and in the UK. The Jodi Awards¹ are for best use of digital technology to widen access to information, collections, learning and creativity for disabled people.

The Second **International Jodi Award** (for all countries except the UK) will be given in Brussels as part of the European Congress on E Inclusion (ECEI10)², 'Delivering a Digital Europe in Public Libraries', an official EU Belgian Presidency event hosted by the Flemish Community and Civic Agenda³. The International Award is for best website or web service and the deadline for nominations is **Monday 9 August**.

This conference is being organised within the framework of the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and will seek to explore the future roles that public libraries have in supporting European policy agendas, looking at e-inclusion; enterprise; anti-poverty; social inclusion; learning; accessible cultural content; creativity; personal development through life; citizenship and accessible information society services.

Matthew Cock, Jodi Mattes Trust Chair and Head of Web at the British Museum:
"Holding the Awards Ceremony in the heart of Brussels as part of this influential Congress will put the International Jodi Award firmly on the European map. We are absolutely thrilled to be working with the European Union and the Flemish Community and its partners to help spark excitement, enthusiasm and initiative around web accessibility and e-inclusion and to learn from new international best practice."

For the first time, the UK Jodi Awards will be presented outside London at a high profile event in Edinburgh in December, to coincide with a National Archives of Scotland⁴ seminar on the problems and possibilities of online historical research by people with disabilities. Museums Galleries Scotland⁵, the Scottish Libraries and Information Council⁶ and Digital Access Scotland⁷ will take part in the collaborative event. The deadline for Award nominations is Friday 13 September.

First given in 2003, European Year of Disabled People, the Jodi Awards celebrate practice that inspires locally, nationally or internationally. We welcome nominations from all kinds of projects, small and big, low-tech and hi-tech and for small and large audiences. These may be as varied as computer literacy courses in a library, accessible touch screens in a museum or online archival materials accessible to disabled researchers. What counts is the value of the project and the quality of engagement with disabled people.

Nominated projects, services and facilities pass before an experienced panel of judges. Disabled users will test entries, and websites submitted for an Award will also be subject to automated testing.

This year, the Jodi Mattes Trust⁸ is stepping up activity to promote awareness of the power of technology to provide a shared experience for disabled people, in the UK and overseas. Marcus Weisen, Jodi Mattes Trust Director recently gave the key-note talk at the 'Mai-Tagung', the German Museums and the Web conference. We are presenting at this year's online TIE (Technology in Education) conference of the American Association of Museums in June. From 22-24 September, we will be running

'Digital Inclusion for Disabled People' seminars in partnership with CyMAL (Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales) and the Human-Computer Interaction Research Group of the University of York.

For more information and a Nomination Form visit: www.jodiawards.org.uk.

Notes to editors:

¹ The Jodi Awards 2010 are sponsored by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, England (MLA); CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales, a division of the Welsh Assembly Government; Museums Galleries Scotland; Scottish Archive Network, Scottish Library and Information Council; Earnscliffe, Making access work. The Human-Computer Interaction Research Group at the University of York and Culture24 provide sponsorship in kind.

² ECEI10 is an official Belgian Presidency Conference taking place on 21st and 22nd September at the Flemish Parliament in Brussels, which will examine the vital role of libraries in delivering a digitally inclusive Europe. Hosted by the Flemish Community in association with Civic Agenda, the conference is a follow up to the inaugural European Congress on E-Inclusion (ECEI09), "Technology in Beyond in Public Libraries", which took place in October 2009. www.ecei09.eu.

³ Civic Agenda is an independent organisation that seeks to equip political leaders, policymakers and opinion-formers with evidence, advice, new thinking and networks that generate social and economic benefit. Civic Agenda is currently a leading voice in the UK and European topic of Digital Inclusion, as the founder of the UK's premier event the National Digital Inclusion Conference and the founder of the European Congress on E Inclusion. Its programme will expand to Africa and the USA in 2010. www.civicagenda.co.uk.

⁴ The National Archives of Scotland hold records spanning the 12th to the 21st centuries, touching on virtually every aspect of Scottish life. www.nas.gov.uk.

⁵ Museums Galleries Scotland is the membership organisation for over 340 museums and galleries throughout Scotland. www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk.

⁶ is the independent advisory body to the Scottish Government on library matters. www.slainte.org.uk.

⁷ Digital Access Scotland – Archives, Libraries and Museums Working is a new partnership, with the common vision to enable all citizens to digitally access the wealth of information and resources held in Scotland's libraries museums and archives and to maximize the potential use and reach of these resources. www.digitalaccessscotland.org.

⁸ The annual Jodi Awards are run by the Jodi Mattes Trust, a UK registered charity established in 2008 (number 1125607). They were previously managed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, England (MLA). www.jodiawards.org.uk.