

News Release

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Online first for Ancient Egyptian Artefacts on the Culture Grid

The University of Swansea's Egypt Centre is the first UK institution to use the latest Modes Complete Collections Management software to connect to the Collections Trust's Culture Grid. The Centre joins hundreds of other UK organisations who are sharing their collections through the Grid, amounting to approximately 2 million records.

Since the Egypt Centre opened in 1998 it has always intended to make its catalogue as widely available as possible, but its smaller collection was not well known and often ignored by scholars of Egyptian antiquity.

Its aim was to be part of a larger network, but as a small museum with limited resources getting the collection online and integrating it with a larger database seemed impossible. However with the development of Modes for Windows and now Modes Complete and Culture Grid all that has been made possible. The Egypt Centre is on the Culture Grid at <http://tinyurl.com/d3wz95u>.

Curator of the Egypt Centre Dr Carolyn Graves-Brown says: "In March we purchased the Modes Complete package with the help of a grant from CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales, and with the help of Modes and the Collections Trust we have put all of our collection onto the Culture Grid for wider access".

Technical Services Manager at the Modes Users Association Richard Langley confirms it is easy to publish collections data to the Culture Grid. He says: "Users just need to select the items they want to include, and then a one-step process makes the data ready to upload to the Grid. It is especially easy to integrate with a website using the Modes web hosting service, but it can work with any web hosting platform."

Dr Graves-Brown concludes: "As a curator with little knowledge of computers, I was genuinely amazed at how easy it has been to upload our collection onto the Culture Grid. I am hoping the rest of the museum world puts their collections online as I am convinced that this is the way forward. To sum up my feelings - at last!".

Welcoming this latest development, Collection Trust's CEO Nick Poole states: "This link-up between Modes and the Culture Grid leads the way for increased integration of UK collections online and a greater online profile for the collections sector as a whole".

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Further information and Press enquiries

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Collections Trust

www.collectionstrust.org.uk

The Collections Trust is an independent UK-based organisation working with museums, libraries, galleries and archives worldwide to improve the management of their Collections. Its mission is to help museums, galleries, libraries and archives unlock the potential in their collections.

It does this for the collections community by providing know-how, developing and promoting excellence, challenging existing practices, pioneering new ideas, and bringing experts together. The Collections Trust is also an independent registered charity. It receives funding from various national partners including Arts Council England and the national organisations in Scotland and Wales.

Culture Grid

<http://www.culturegrid.org.uk/>

Culture Grid joins and opens up UK collections information for more use by more people in more ways, supporting the sector to increase the impact and value of digital collections. The service is a key part of Collections Trust's aim to open up culture for all and has been recognised internationally as a leader in its field.

Culture Grid makes it easier to create different services to meet diverse audience needs: from international portals aimed at multi-lingual access to colour palette generators for creative inspiration. Culture Grid currently contains *approximately 2 million records from 100's of collections of all kinds*, mainly referencing images and covering a huge range of topics, periods and places. Culture Grid is growing all the time through engagement with funded programmes and projects, technical innovations and an open invitation to get involved with this exciting initiative.

Modes

<http://www.modes.org.uk/>

Modes is the most widely-used collections management system in British museums. It offers simple and affordable solutions to help you manage and use your collection information. Modes Complete is the multi-user version and Modes Compact is designed for cataloguing smaller collections.

Both offer a flexible framework for the entry, updating and effective use of your information. Particular support is offered for museum and archival cataloguing, and for museum collections management.

Modes Users Association is a not-for profit organisation with over 500 members throughout the UK. We are the Museum community when it comes to collection management, with over 20 years' experience. Our members are diverse from large county wide services to small independent museums. We believe in maintaining the highest standards and assist our members to manage their collection information to meet Accreditation standards. Our Support Team are friendly, knowledgeable and helpful at all times, because our members matter to us.



The Egypt Centre, University of Swansea

<http://egypt.swan.ac.uk/index.php/what-we-do>

The Egypt Centre has three core functions which are delivered through several Museum services and in which all staff are involved at different levels. They are:

- **Preservation of the collection**, and thus collection management, is the basis of any museum. Without the collection there would be no museum. Collections are fundamental to the defining and workings of a museum. The acquisition and disposal policy, conservation strategy and documentation are central to this and are a requirement of accreditation.
- **Education** at the Egypt Centre is as defined by Inspiring Learning for All and uses the collection to deliver a service for all ages and abilities. Education, includes teaching and learning, research, acquiring of skills, inspiration, etc., and involves a variety of resources including the shop sales point. Education also relates to staff and volunteer training but also personal development.
- **Widening participation** makes explicit our aim to reach as diverse an audience as possible and to incorporate all groups in the life of the museum and thus the University. Thus the two audiences of 'University' and 'Public' are incorporated.

The Collection

<http://www.egypt.swansea.ac.uk/index.php/the-collection-01>

There are over 5000 items in the collection. Most of them were collected by the pharmacist [Sir Henry Wellcome](#). Others came to us from: the British Museum; the Royal Edinburgh Museum; National Museums and Galleries of Wales Cardiff; the Royal Albert Museum and Art Gallery, [Woking College](#) and also private donors.

Sir Henry Wellcome collected items from excavations. Included in the Egypt Centre collection are items from [Armant](#), [Amarna](#), [Deir el-Medina](#), Esna, [Mostagedda](#), [Qau](#), etc. Additionally he collected items from individuals. These included Robert de Rustafjaell, Gayner-Anderson, [Berens](#) and MacGregor.

Background

<http://www.egypt.swansea.ac.uk/index.php/history-of-the-egypt-centre>

In 1994 a small Egyptian collection resided in University of Wales, Swansea known and cared for by the Department of Classics and Ancient History and known to academics, but largely unheard of by the general public. Perhaps partly as object-centred teaching was not fashionable, many students of the department studying Egyptology at Swansea had never visited.

That year Sybil Crouch, manager of the Taliesin Arts Centre at the University of Wales Swansea, suggested that the collection might be better used. In 1998, sleeping beauty awoke and the Egypt Centre was born – a museum of Egyptian antiquities yes, but also a resource to aid widening participation in Universities, a means of breaking down barriers between town and gown and an inspiration for students, visitors and volunteers.