



JISC
Northavon House
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QD

28th October 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: University of Birmingham's tender for 'World War One Commemoration: Digital Content Prioritisation'

We wish to show our support for the tender by University of Birmingham School of History and Cultures, under the JISC WW1 Commemoration programme.

We believe this project will offer us an excellent opportunity to consider how best to expose material about these events of key historical and social importance. There is a huge amount of public interest in the First World War, only increased by the approaching centenary.

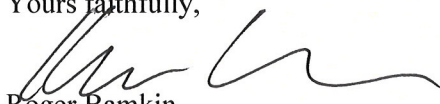
Wikimedia UK believes that Wikipedia, and other Wikimedia Foundation projects, have an important role in informing the public about World War I. While Wikipedia is not specifically an academic resource, it is nevertheless increasingly used as a point of reference by students in further and higher education up to undergraduate level. For this reason it is vital that Wikipedia accurately reflects current scholarship on World War I. We also believe that the Wikimedia projects have an important role to play both as a means of dissemination of cultural heritage content and as a positive example of a crowdsourced, open learning environment.

We wholeheartedly support the tender's transnational approach and its intention to address issues of historical interpretation versus folk memory, and consider it likely that this point will be crucial to any future use of digital cultural collections in public engagement.

We believe that the University of Birmingham's partners represent a range of institutions of academic and curatorial excellence, with significant experience in the production of educational resources.

We agree to cooperate with the research into digital sources and audiences in particular, and to send a representative of Wikimedia UK to at least one meeting of the project's academic advisory board. We understand that normal travel expenses will be met by the project.

Yours faithfully,


P.P. Roger Bamkin
Chair
Wikimedia UK

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