## The Kultur Project – Library Audience

**Partners:**
- **The University of Southampton**
- **The University of the Arts London (UAL)**
- **University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester (UCCA)**
- **Visual Arts Data Service (VADS)**

**Funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)**

The aim of the Kultur project is to create a model of an institutional repository tailored to the specific needs of the creative arts research community. Digital repositories have started to play an increasingly significant role within Higher Education Institutions as a means of managing and promoting research and educational assets. However, there remain considerable disciplinary variations in the current usage of repositories, with take-up in the sciences and technology far higher than in the arts and humanities. Research outputs in the creative and applied arts are particularly under-represented in digital repositories. The Kultur project aims to address this imbalance by investigating the various technical, policy and cultural barriers currently preventing arts-based researchers from depositing their work. The project will also create a multimedia repository with the flexibility to showcase both theory and practice-led research, so that alongside traditional text-based outputs, it will also be able to store a range of digital objects, reflecting the breadth of research carried out in the creative and applied arts. This will include digital versions of painting, photography, printmaking, performance, film, installations, and graphic and textile design amongst other forms.

The project partnership brings together expertise in the creative and applied arts sector (UAL and UCCA), specialist knowledge of the digital environment (VADS), and several years experience of institutional repository development (Southampton). The EPrints team at Southampton will establish two sustainable repositories for each of the arts institutions. At the same time Southampton will develop the cultural content of its existing repository with input from the Winchester School of Art, a constituent part of the University. An essential part of the Kultur project will be to investigate how research groups and individuals can be encouraged to create and deposit digital

representatives of their work, and so the project partners will work closely with the academic community to populate the repositories and to assess their usability. The repositories will directly benefit the information provision at UAL and UCCA, greatly assisting the capacity of both institutions to retain, manage and promote their research outputs, as well as facilitating the re-use of material for research-led teaching. Alongside these important localised gains, it is anticipated that the project will result in broader advances in knowledge. These include a greater understanding of the specific rights issues and possible licences that apply to the creative arts; an improved knowledge of how metadata can be applied to digital objects in this field; and a step towards the longer-term preservation of artistic and cultural material. Ultimately, the project will provide the arts community with a practical framework for managing non-text based research in a digital environment, a framework which will be applicable not only to HE institutions nationally, but also to cross-domain users such as art galleries and museums.