



10 Most Wanted

Hunting down missing information about cultural artefacts



The Museum of Design in Plastics
Arts University Bournemouth



Interactive Technologies Research Group
University of Brighton



Adaptive Technologies Limited



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported by Nesta, Arts & Humanities Research Council and public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England

Enhancing collections and engaging new audiences: a game-based approach to crowd-sourcing the discovery and verification of undocumented facts about collection items

Problem

In the absence of makers' marks, packaging or additional information, we are left only with the intrinsic properties of size, colour, material and process.



Designer: **Unknown** Country: **Unknown**
Manufacturer: **Unknown** Date: **Unknown**

Collections can contain many thousands, or even tens of thousands of artefacts.



So where to begin?



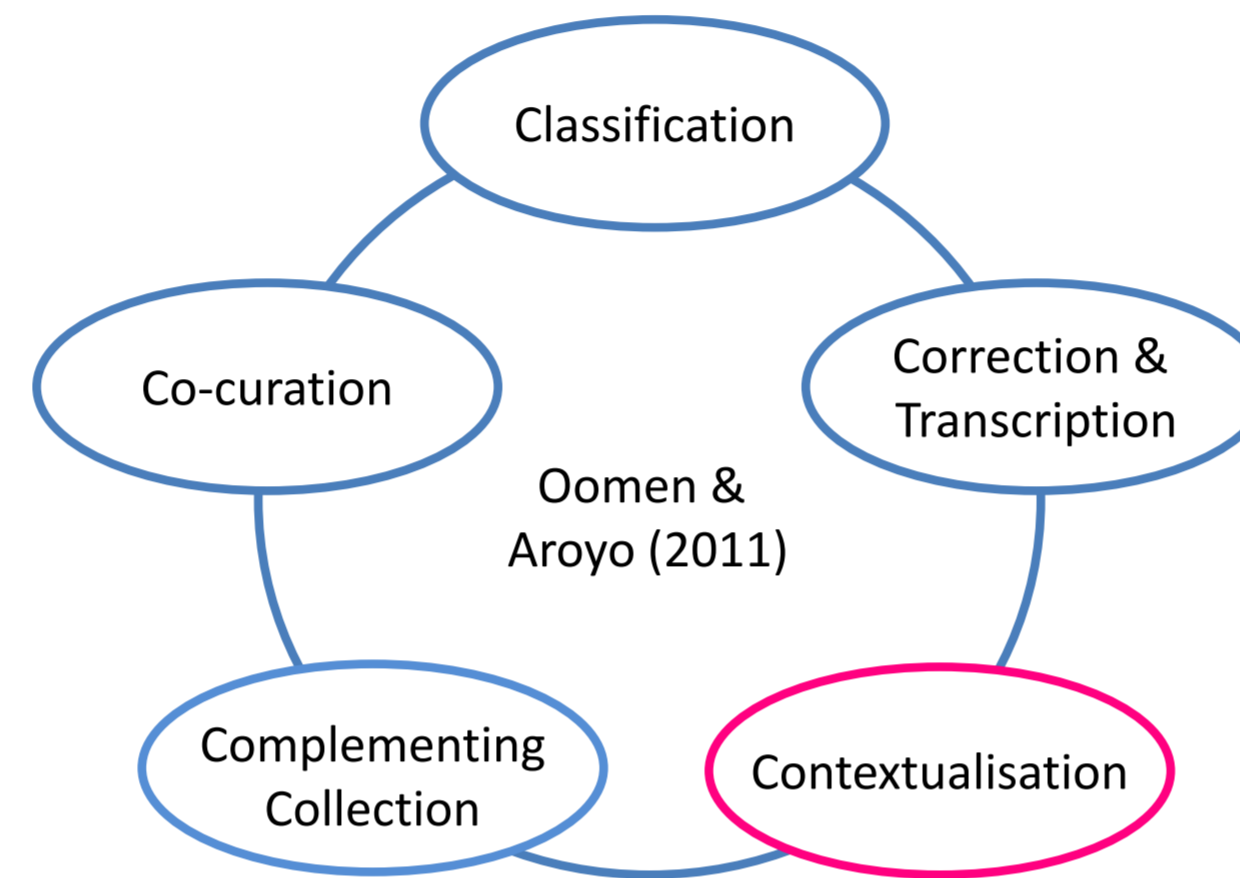
The problem is not particular to the Museum of Design in Plastics (MoDiP) but is shared by many different kinds of collections.



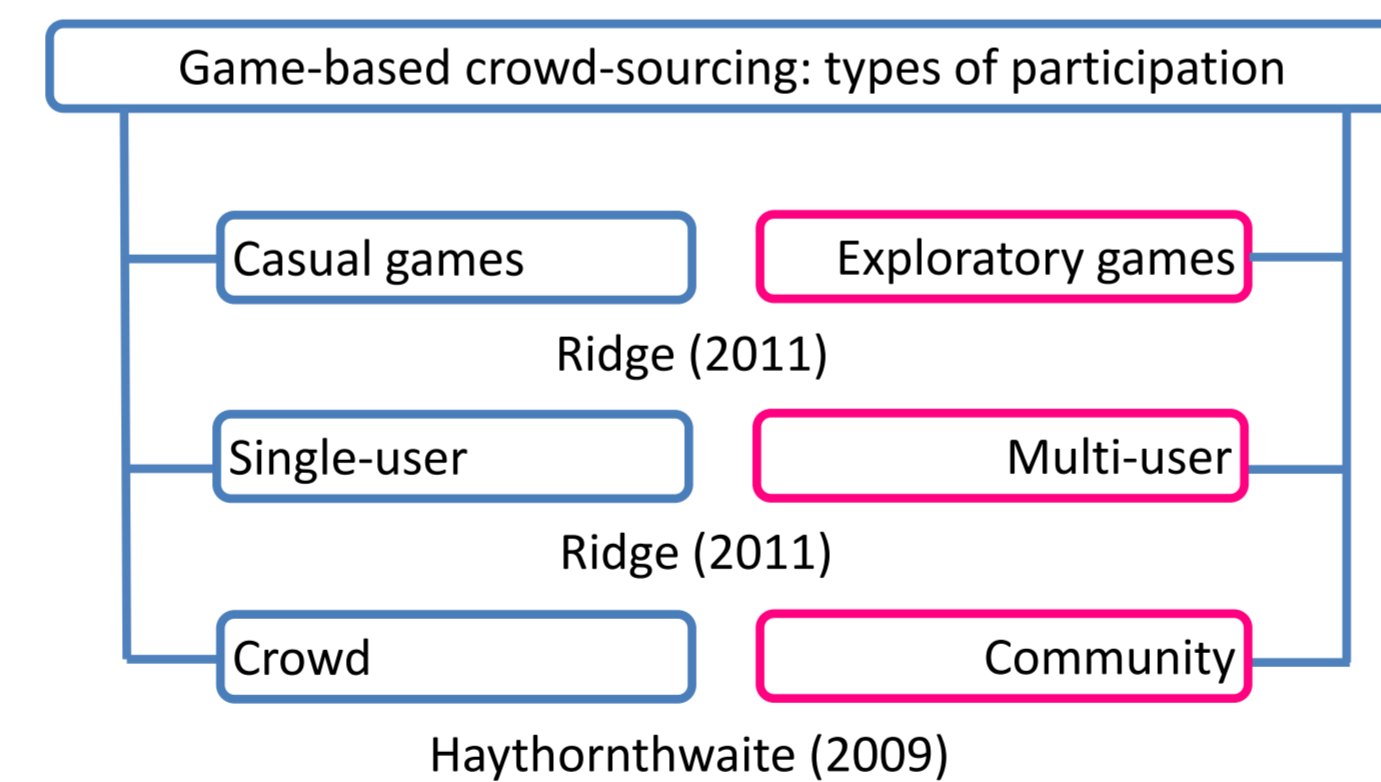
Who? Where? Designed by? Made by?

Research

Most crowd-sourcing projects in Cultural Heritage focus on Classification and Correction & Transcription. We focus on the Contextualisation of collection items.



Most projects develop casual, single-user games for a non-descript crowd. We develop an exploratory, multi-user game for sustained engagement by a community.



Research Questions:

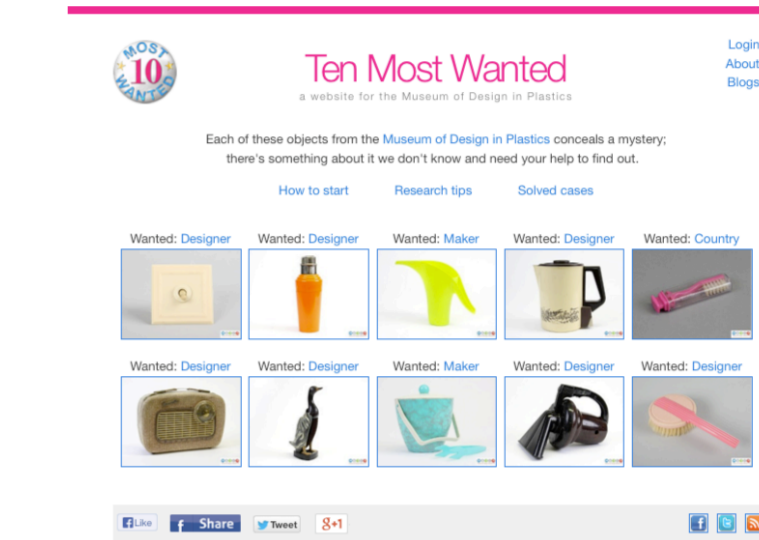
RQ1 - How to design, promote and facilitate complex crowd-sourcing games for collections?

RQ2 - How to integrate user-generated content with professionally curated collection data?

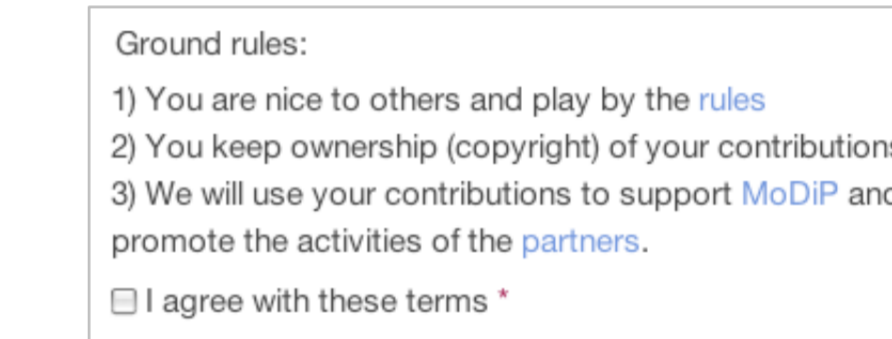
RQ3 - How to deal with IPR issues in a transparent, non-limiting and user-friendly way?

Approach

A website and social media channels to engage players, promote discussion and coordinate activities.



Players are asked to agree to our Terms & Conditions on sign-up.



These are summarised in three simple bullet points linked to a long version of the T&Cs.

Social network posts are filtered into the individual object pages. Key discoveries in the investigation are recorded in the case notes, so that:

1. Visitors can see progress without reading the entire narrative.
2. Contributions are put into a museum context.
3. Key discoveries are transferred from social network to own domain.
4. Evidence trail meets professional standards.
5. Contributors can be credited by name.

Case notes

Stair carpet clips - Case AIBDC : 005528
Submitted by Susan Lambert on Thu, 10/31/2013 - 16:06.

Patent found: E Harrison of Bury was the applicant
10/16/2013

Rupert Radcliffe has got us going: stair 'rods' of this design were patented on 10 September 1932 by Ernest Harrison, of Lathom Street in Bury.

The full patent listing can be seen here:
<http://worldwide.espacenet.com/publicationDetails/biblio...>

A brilliant start. Now we need to find out what was Ernest Harrison's role? Was he their designer/inventor or the owner of a company that produced them?

Proof the clips were in production at least from 1934 to 1937
12/10/13

Lewis Orchard has found they were exhibited at both the 1934 and 1937 White City British Industries Fairs: at the 1934 Fair, 'Byson Appliance' are listed as producers of 'Stair-Carpet-Holders (non-metal, Made from Bysonite in Oak, Walnut, Mahogany, Black Green and Orange Colours'. No source provided.

Lewis Orchard has also found information relating to their exhibition at the 1937 British Industries Fair: http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Byson_Appliance_Co

More from Lewis Orchard: 'an article from "Newspaper world, 1935" states that there was trade advertising for "Byson Stair Carpet Grips".'

So we know that that the design made it into production. We still need to find out Ernest Harrison's role.

Byson Appliance Co. and E Harrison are connected
17/10/2013

Lewis Orchard : points out that Byson Appliance Co and Harrison, E. both located in Bury, seem to be associated together with at least 9 patents, dated between 1938-1952, all related to curtains, carpets and home maintenance:
http://www.patentmaps.com/assignee/Byson_Appliance_1.html.

This suggests that Byson was either owner of or employee at Byson. Which was he?

The case notes provide a permanent evidence trail once the curator is satisfied and closes the case.

Case closed

Designer: Ernest Harrison

Date: 1932

Participating Agents: Rupert Radcliffe, Lewis Orchard, Stephen Hill, and Yvonne Foster, for introducing two of the agents to the chase.

