



Gorffennol Digidol Digital Past - 2021

DEMOCRATISING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLECTIONS
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DIGITAL SKILL-SHARING

Drew Ellery, Digital Officer, [The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre and Education Trust](#)



[Digital Past 2021](#): New technologies in heritage, interpretation and outreach | 8th – 12th February 2021, online via Zoom.

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The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre and Education Trust have a symbiotic relationship. The Education Trust supports ethnically and culturally diverse community heritage projects, generating material (including publications, oral histories, creative material and donated papers) that are accessioned into the RACE Centre's archive collection. In turn, this archive material forms the basis of future outreach work.

The Coming In from Cold project has allowed us to work with many diverse and under-represented community groups, ensuring that they are equipped with training to digitise photographs and documents, record oral histories as well as curating digital content. This participatory model enables our groups to hold authority over the production and curation of their own digital material. As an outcome, our groups have used this training to produce engaging outputs for exhibitions, workshops, presentations and websites, ensuring that their stories are heard and that our archive (at Manchester Central Library) more accurately reflects the diversity of Greater Manchester.

I will share our holistic approach to community engagement and collection development and discuss how institutions might re-negotiate dynamics of power and control within an increasingly digital landscape.

Biography

Drew Ellery is the Digital Officer at the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre. He began his career as an Archives Trainee with the National Archives - Skills for the Future traineeship programme. His work focuses on using digitisation and digital technologies to increase access to archive collections at Manchester Central Library. He has recently completed an MA in Museum and Gallery Studies at the University of Manchester.



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