



BUILDING RESEARCH NETWORKS FOR SCOTLAND'S UNIVERSITIES

WORLD-CLASS R & D

The Vicinity Project - in Nantes

The Vicinity Project

"Tourism proxemics and software systems for improving heritage management walking routes on city breaks"

Short city-break holidays for cultural tourism can create a disorientation for holidaymakers. They arrive at the hotel, often in the evening of the first day and do not have time to find their bearings. The following day a whole morning can be lost looking for the museum, monument, garden or visitor attraction at the top of their list. As they walk there, just 2 streets away may have been an exciting point of interest unknown to them.



First Steps

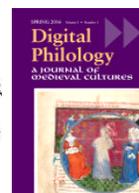
Working with a Nantes-based SME in emerging technologies Dr Andy Annamalai will convert the Loceme software into Python 3.



Loceme

The Loceme software was developed by Dr Charlie Mansfield, initially in PHP, and trialled by Professor Jim Laidlaw at the University of Edinburgh.

Email c.mansfield@plymouth.ac.uk



Mansfield, C. & Laidlaw, J. (2016) 'Patterns and Fingerprints in British Library, Harley MS 4431' *Digital Philology: A Journal of Medieval Cultures* (Johns Hopkins University)

River Cities

by Dr Andy Annamalai, UHI SICSA Member

The coastal geography of Western France shares many similarities with the tidal rias of South Devon, the home of Plymouth University. My doctoral research project in these tidal waters was to develop automated and robotic navigation systems for secure marine work and global positioning.

Fieldwork with Dr Charlie Mansfield in the French towns and islands of Brittany has helped focus this technology and engineering knowledge for use in tourism and sustainable heritage management.



SICSA UNIVERSITY LEAD PARTNER

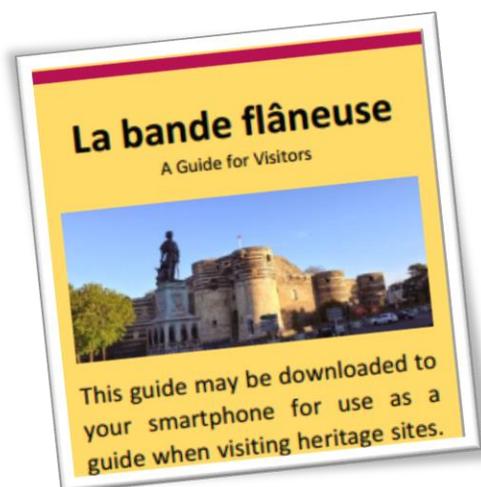


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Dr Denise Maior-Barron researches heritage management and developed the smart-phone museum guide with Dr Charlie Mansfield at Plymouth University.



Project Funding

In September 2016 the Vicinity Project was awarded a pump-priming grant by SICSA under its PEER scheme to enable pilot work with the software SME in Nantes and for fieldwork in the city. Research began on cultural sites for inclusion in a smart-phone guide to heritage walks in Nantes based on *La Bande Flâneuse* for English-speaking visitors. Results will be presented at a conference on 10th November 2016 at Clermont-Ferrand University on cultural innovation in territorial management.

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