Location in Search

In browse the search is organised as subcategories of the different countries, and it follows the different administrative units of the country. In England, which is the most complicated, the user just follows the options in a pre-organised way so they don’t really need to understand the details of how the UK administrative geography works.

If you’re searching, then you’re looking for a particular area and it needs to be clear where you look. And users shouldn’t have to have a detailed knowledge of the UK geography in order to search. We also don’t want to have enormous drop down lists.

So possible options are to replicate the browse format and divide according to country.

England: Counties, UAs, CAs

England: Boroughs and Districts (NB this includes London boroughs)

Northern Ireland: Districts

Scotland: Council Areas

Wales: Unitary authorities

The other option, which is what I was talking about yesterday at the meeting, is to combine the different local authority units across the countries but this produces a huge list AND it’s not really clear where the equivalents are. So is a Scottish council area roughly equivalent to a unitary authority, in which case it should be in with counties etc, or is it more like a borough in which case it should be in category of smaller units.

I’m tempted to go with the by-country search function. I suspect this would be easier for Nick to organise and it doesn’t fudge the difficulty of the administrative boundaries.

We could for clarity separate the address searches from the administrative region searches so that the search drop down would be as follows:

Name of museum

Country

Town or city

Postcode

Subject classification 2018

Subject classification 1998

Year open

Year closed

Governance

Accreditation

England: Regions

England: Counties, UAs and CAs

England: Boroughs and districts

Northern Ireland: Districts

Scotland: Council Areas

Wales: Unitary Authorities

NB Nick can you make sure that you delete year of foundation from search list and also we should delete project id.

Thoughts?

Fiona