FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **PRESS RELEASE**

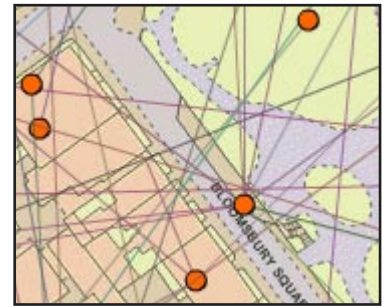# URBAN TAPESTRIES

photo: John Paul Bichard © 2004

http://urbantapestries.net

Proboscis announces location based RSS Feeds and a web browser for the **Urban Tapestries** public authoring system.

As part of Proboscis' continuing research into social, cultural and creative implications of *public authoring*, we have created two new ways in which members of the public can access content generated during the two Urban Tapestries trials via simple web based interfaces:

RSS Feeds by Location
RSS (Rich Site Summary) feeds from Urban Tapestries deliver content created by individual authors, *threads* or all of the *pockets* on the system. Additionally, it is possible to create a custom RSS feed for all content within a radius (100 metres, 500m, 1km or 5km) of a specific place within the trial area (Central London).
http://trial.urbantapestries.net/rss/subscribe.cgi

Flash Web Browser
Proboscis has created a web interface to Urban Tapestries that overlays the *pockets* and *threads* over an Ordnance Survey MasterMap of Central London enabling users to view the content authored on the system by location.
http://trial.urbantapestries.net/flashbrowser/
For copyright reasons users must register to use the UT Web Browser at: http://trial.urbantapestries.net/

Urban Tapestries is a Proboscis project exploring social and cultural uses of the convergence of place and mobile technologies through transdisciplinary research. To help us model emerging social and cultural behaviours we have built an experimental platform that allows users to author and access place-based content (text, audio and pictures). It is a framework for exploring and sharing experience and knowledge, for leaving and annotating ephemeral traces of peoples' presence in the geography of the city.

The Urban Tapestries system enables users to create relationships between geographic places via the creation of *pockets* and *threads*. *Pockets* are the relationship a user makes to a specific geographic place (to an accuracy of 1 metre square) and contain the media the user chooses to associate with that place (such as a story and/or audio file and/or a picture). *Threads* are the thematic relationships between pockets and geographic places and can vary from the practical, 'Fair Trade Goods Sold Here' to the personal, 'My Favourite Bars & Cafes' — the possibilities are endless.

Proboscis has conducted two trials of different prototypes in London — one using handheld computers and a WiFi mesh network (December 2003) and the other using Symbian OS Smartphones over GPRS (June 2004).

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For more details contact: Giles Lane on +44 (0) 20 7209 4042 or at giles@proboscis.org.uk
2 Ormonde Mansions, 100A Southampton Row, London WC1B 4BJ