

# The power of the web to transform the telling of statistical stories

Paper prepared by David Pullinger Carol Summerfield

Presented by Helena Rafalowska

## History of statistical storytelling in the UK

- Social Trends launched in 1970
- 'Story approach' information from a range of sources on a single topic
- Most popular web publication 5,000 visitors a month
- Led to development of 'UK at a glance'.

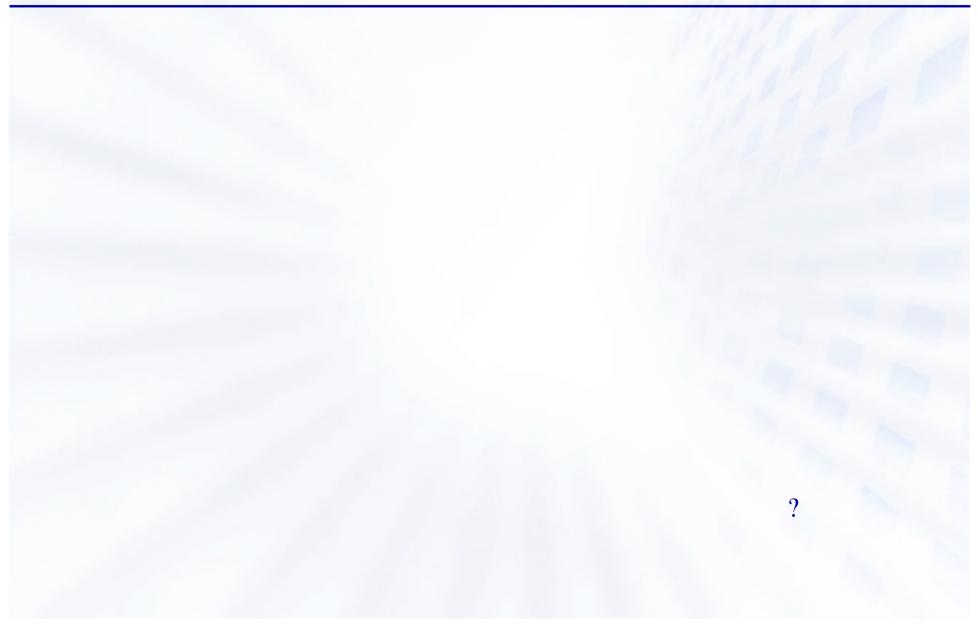
'I believe that having access to official statistics which we can all trust is essential in any healthy society. Statistics encourage debate, inform decision making both inside and outside government and allow people to judge whether the Government is delivering on its promises.'

> Tony Blair Prime Minister

#### **Getting there**

- Free information on the web
- Stories not data storage
- Broadcast news approach
- Topic based summaries 'UK at a glance'
- Top layer of information for casual visitors
- Navigational aid for more expert users

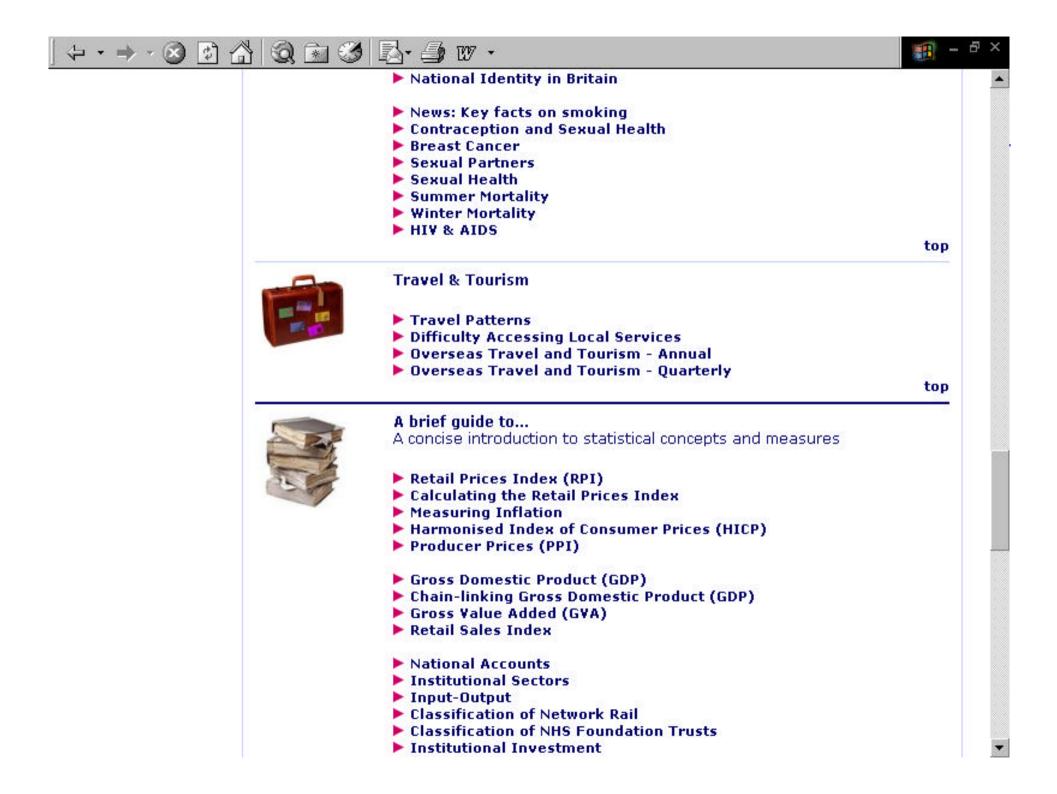
### **National Statistics Online**

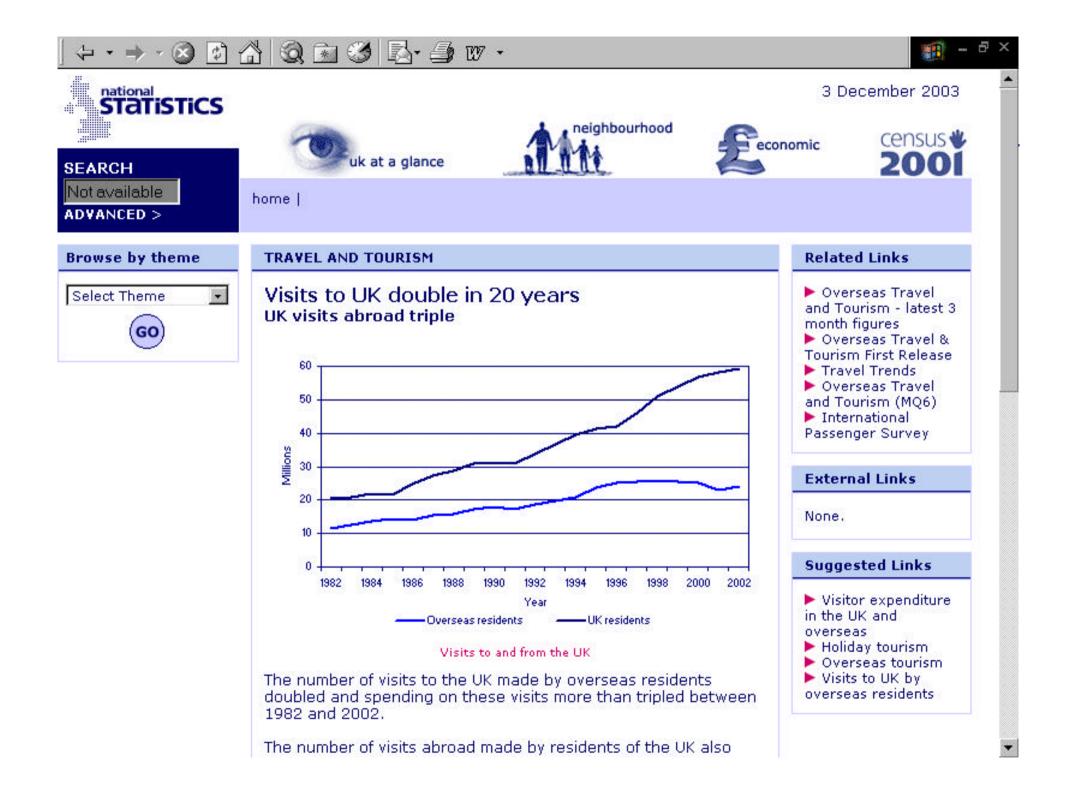


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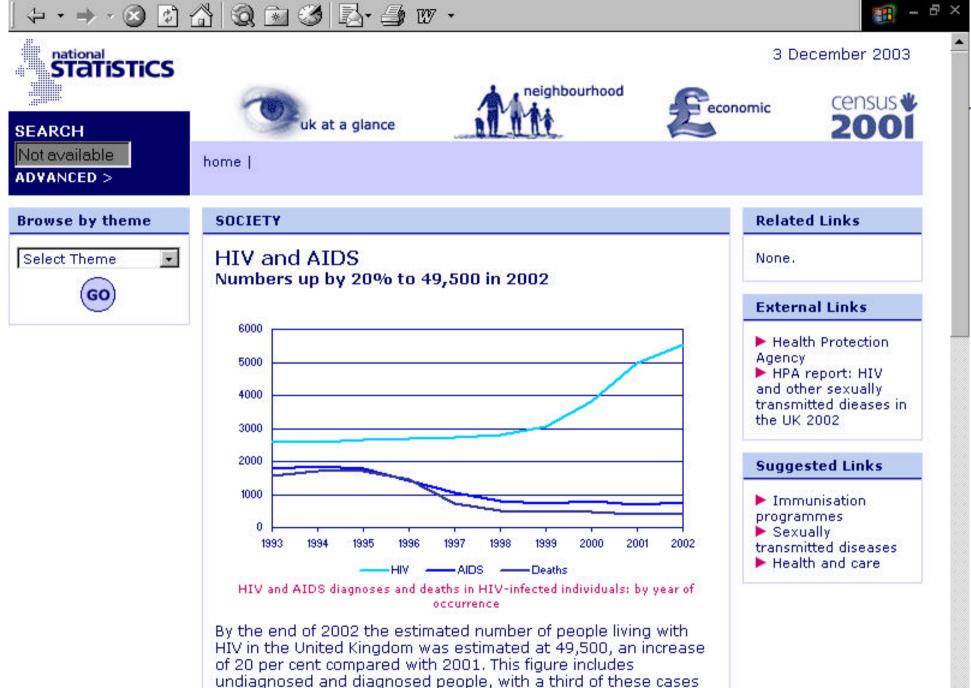
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Time Series Data

Journal articles

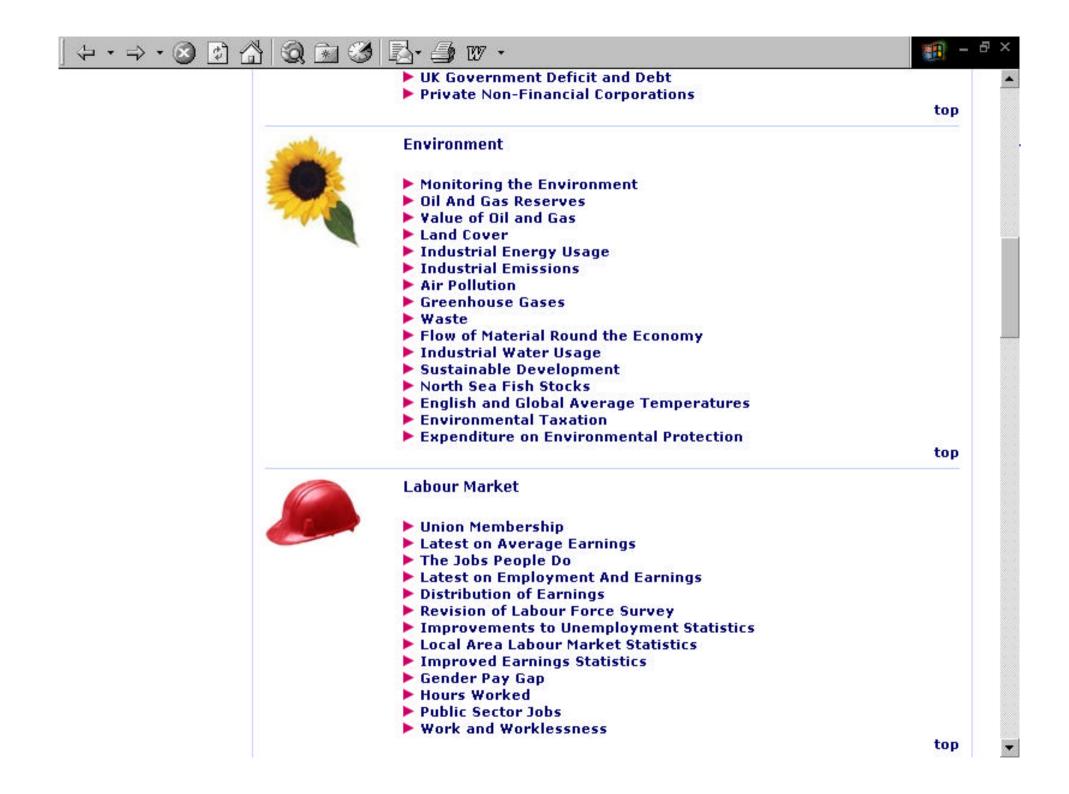
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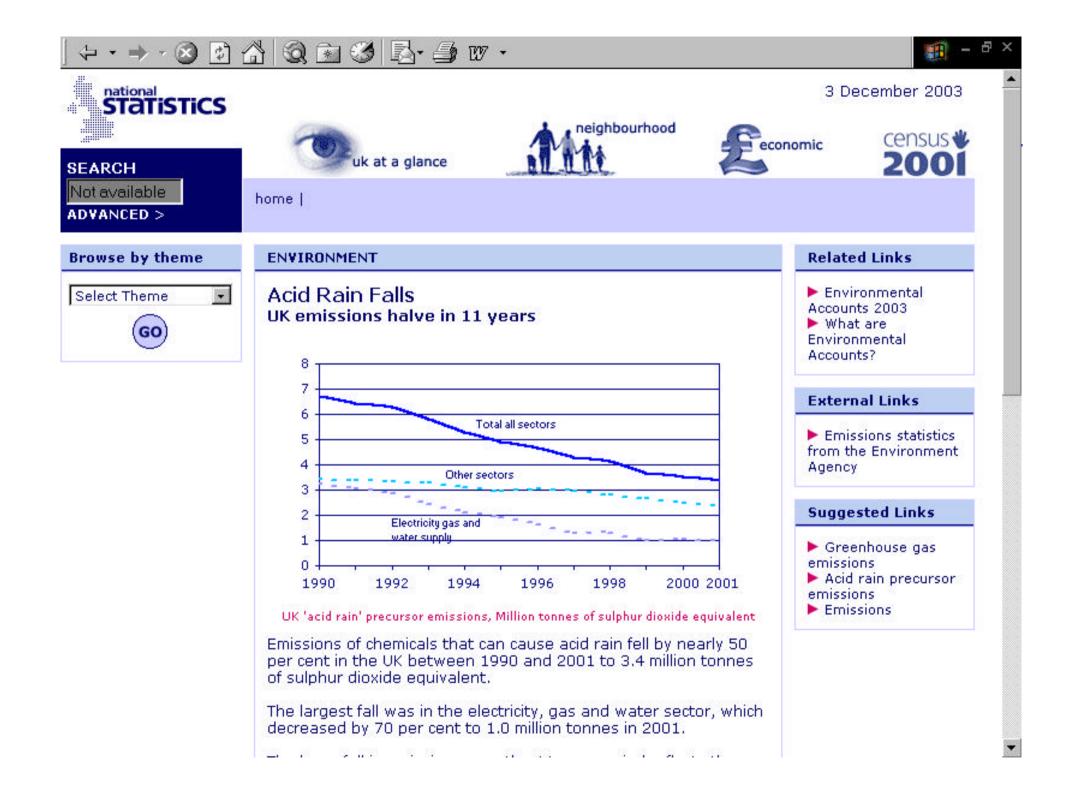
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estimated as unaware of their condition.







#### **Challenges for the future**

- How do we meet the demand for more populist communications of statistics?
- How do we respond to greater interest in statistics and the need for relevance to current issues?
- How do we respond to the need for reliable, understandable statistics to support evidencebased policy making?
- Does an open and accessible approach help build greater trust?

