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# News from SCONUL's recent e-bulletins

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## 100 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

On 19 March the National Library of Wales celebrated its one hundredth birthday. On 19 March 1907 King Edward VII signed the Royal Charter establishing the Library in Aberystwyth. Since then it has grown into one of the world's great libraries, home to the historic treasures of Wales and to recorded knowledge of all kinds in almost all media.

### NEW DIRECTOR FOR LISU

Following the retirement of Dr J Eric Davies at the end of January 2007, LISU is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Director. Claire Creaser is a Chartered Statistician, who has worked at LISU for 13 years, and was previously the Deputy Director. <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/dis/lisu>

### JISC PUBLISHES NEW STRATEGY

JISC's updated strategy, published on 8 March, reaffirms its commitment to the support of institutions in realising their goals in the digital age while broadening its focus to include for the first time the support of institutions' activities to engage with business and the community. Introducing the Strategy [2007-09], JISC Chairman, Professor Sir Ron Cooke, writes that it represents a natural progression of the approach and vision identified three years ago. 'But,' he continues, 'the new strategy also equips us with the means of identifying new opportunities and meeting fresh challenges, something of vital importance in our rapidly changing education and research environment.' See: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/strategy0709>

### JISC AND RESEARCH COUNCILS SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

On 21 March, information services for the UK's research community received a significant boost with the signing of a new agreement between JISC and the Research Councils. It will strengthen cooperation and ensure that the research com-

munity has access to improved services, such as increased network bandwidth. The move will also ensure that thousands of scientists in Research Council Institutes will have the same access to JISC services as their university-based counterparts. For further information, please contact: Philip Pothen (JISC) at [p.pothen@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:p.pothen@jisc.ac.uk) or Matt Goode (RCUK) at [matt.goode@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:matt.goode@rcuk.ac.uk)

### THESES UNBOUND: TOWARDS A NATIONAL E-THESES SERVICE FOR THE UK

A fully integrated national electronic theses service moved a step closer with the announcement on 8 March of a two-year project - EThOSnet - to establish a live service run by the British Library in two years' time. JISC and CURL (Consortium of Research Libraries), with the support of participating libraries, are funding the project to widen access to what is a rich and vast but up to now almost invisible and untapped resource for researchers. By contrast EThOS, the service that will be established by the project, will make UK theses openly available for global use, providing an international showcase for some of the best of UK research. The project builds on earlier exploratory work, also funded by JISC and CURL, which between 2004 and 2006 developed a prototype for the service. EThOSnet builds on these firm foundations and through collaboration with the British Library and higher education will transform access to theses in the UK by providing the full text of theses through a single point of entry. In addition, in tandem with the emerging network of institutional repositories in the UK, it promises to become a central element of the national infrastructure for research. Further information: EThOSnet

### FROM SCANDAL TO EMPIRE: THE 18TH CENTURY UNCOVERED

The 18th Century Parliamentary Papers project, funded by JISC and led by the University of Southampton, makes openly available for the first time a complete run of all the parliamentary papers, bills and journals of a momentous century of achievement, upheaval and empire. It constitutes the latest stage in the BOPCRIS (British Official Publications Collaborative Reader Information Service) project to digitise British Official Publications over the period 1688-1995. It has seen the first use in the UK of a one-tonne robotic scanner, capable of working its way through over 500 pages of historical materials in an hour. Pages are turned with vacuum technology, their edges pinpointed by lasers. This output rate has freed up staff time to devote to the indexing and

classification of the digitised resource, leading to unprecedented search functionality across the more than 14,000 documents and one million pages made available in the collection. It was launched in the Houses of Parliament on 23 March, the 200th anniversary of the passage of the bill to abolish the slave trade. See [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme\\_digitisation/project\\_british\\_official\\_publications.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_digitisation/project_british_official_publications.aspx)

#### **JISC NATIONAL MIRROR SERVICE TO CLOSE**

A JISC-funded Mirror Service has existed in the UK since 1999, providing free local access to copies of mostly high-demand resources held on other, remote sites. The service has delivered enormous savings to UK education: time and money saved, greater efficiency and reliability and better performance (though these benefits have not always been apparent to end users). The mirror service was established when international network links were primitive and expensive. But no longer is there such a need to reduce demand on transatlantic links, and educational institutions have taken up mirroring in such a way that a national service is now more difficult to justify. The service will close on 31 July. Further information on future arrangements: [www.mirror.ac.uk](http://www.mirror.ac.uk)

#### **INTERNATIONAL CORNER - NEW NEGOTIATOR FOR ITALIAN 'BIG DEAL' - SOME FAMILIAR NAMES**

The negotiator for the renewal of the national contract for access to Elsevier scientific publications on behalf of universities and the largest research bodies in Italy has just been appointed by the CARE group (Coordination Group for the purchase of Electronic Resources). The winning candidate was a negotiating team made up of two directors of Content Complete, Paul Harwood and Albert Prior, together with Luca Burioni of E.S. Burioni Ricerche Bibliografiche.

#### **SCONUL'S ROLE IN THE UK RESEARCH RESERVE**

At the invitation of the project's organisers, SCONUL has agreed to support the UK Research Reserve (<http://www.curl.ac.uk/projects/CollaborativeStorage/Home.htm>) by taking on a monitoring and brokering role. In future cases where very few copies remain in the UK for the purposes of the Reserve, SCONUL will negotiate with institutions to assure the retention of a minimum number. The working assumption is

that at least three 'last copies' will be available to researchers.

#### **WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT REPORTS ON BOLOGNA**

The House of Commons Education and Skills Committee publishes its report on the Bologna Process on Monday 30 April. (Fourth Report from the Education and Skills Committee, Session 2006-07, HC 205). All Committee publications and press releases are available on their website: <http://www.parliament.uk/edskills/>

#### **'DEPOT' FOR RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS**

Put it in the Depot... a simple message, part of the JISC Repositories and Preservation programme in support of the deposit of research publications under terms of Open Access. The general strategy being adopted in the UK is that every university should develop and establish its own institutional repository (IR). Many researchers can already make use of the IRs set up in their institution, but that is not (yet) the case for all. A key purpose for The Depot is to bridge that gap, providing a deposit facility to enable all UK researchers to expose their publications to readers under terms of Open Access. The Depot will also have a redirect function linking researchers to the appropriate home pages of their own institutional repositories. The end result should be more content in repositories, making it easier for researchers and policy makers to have peer-reviewed research results exposed to wider readership under Open Access.

The principal focus for The Depot is the deposit of post-prints, digital versions of published journal articles and similar items. There are plans to include links to places for depositing other digital materials, such as research datasets and learning materials. The Depot is based on E-Prints software and is compliant with the Open Archive Initiative (OAI) standards for repository interoperability. Its contents will be harvested and searched through the Intute Repository Search project. It offers a redirect service, UK Repository Junction, to ensure that content that comes within the remit of an extant repository is correctly placed there instead of in The Depot.

Further information at <http://depot.edina.ac.uk/>

#### **SUSTAINING THE DIGITAL LIBRARY**

A Symposium on Sustaining the Digital Library will be held in Edinburgh, 13-14 September. The

intention is to present the major challenges which now confront staff with strategic responsibilities as existing services are converted to digital form, and new digital knowledge services find their place within the library portfolio.

Numbers are limited, and so this message is being sent initially to Library Directors via the CURL, SCURL and SCONUL lists. If you, or a senior colleague on your staff, wish to attend, please email Linda Cooper ([linda.cooper@ed.ac.uk](mailto:linda.cooper@ed.ac.uk)) to express your interest as soon as possible.

Details are available and will be kept up to date at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/news/sdlc.html>.

### **3RD INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CURATION CONFERENCE**

The UK Digital Curation Centre (DCC), the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) are pleased to jointly announce the 3rd International Digital Curation Conference to be held on 12-13 December 2007 in Washington DC, USA. Entitled "Curating our digital scientific heritage: a global collaborative challenge" the conference will focus on emerging strategy, policy implementation, leading-edge research and practitioner experience, and will comprise a mix of peer-reviewed papers, invited presentations and keynote international speakers. Further details and a Call for Papers will be published shortly at <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2007/>

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

As information systems and supporting technologies become more critical to the successful operation of HEIs, managers and governors need increasingly to assure themselves that investment is aligned to strategy. In 2005 JISC commissioned a project, based at the University of Strathclyde, to develop a framework and toolkit designed to facilitate institutional self-assessment of the management and governance of information systems. The process described in the toolkit encourages senior policymakers to reflect on what they want to achieve from the institution's investment and whether current structures and practices are aligned to these objectives. The toolkit then encourages institutions to develop an action plan.

The draft toolkit has been piloted by several HEIs including the University of Brighton, Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, the University of Cambridge, Durham University, Glasgow Caledonian University, Liverpool John

Moore's University and the University of Northampton. Formal launch is expected in the autumn of 2007. Information and comment to: [michael.coen@strath.ac.uk](mailto:michael.coen@strath.ac.uk).

### **JANET LAUNCHES ITS NEW WIRELESS TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE**

The JANET Wireless Technology Advisory Service was launched on 4 April. The service is available to academic and research organisations and will provide unbiased expert advice on a wide range of wireless technologies and their implementation, including e-mail or telephone advice and guidance on planning and implementation of wireless technologies.

To open an enquiry, simply contact JANET Service Desk, by e-mail: [ervice@janet.ac.uk](mailto:ervice@janet.ac.uk), or phone 0870 8502212 quoting the WTAS service.

### **INFORMATION COMMONS OPENS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD**

The University of Sheffield's Information Commons opened on 10 April, a little later than originally planned but on budget. By early afternoon over 2,000 people had passed through the turnstile. A link to the official press release follows: <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/mediacentre/2007/785.html>

### **SCONUL APPOINTS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

Elliot Frankal has been appointed communications officer for SCONUL from 1 June. A freelance journalist who specialises in public sector and social enterprise copywriting, he will be assisting the Secretariat and available to help all our various Groups to get news to our members - and to the people SCONUL hopes to influence. This arrangement will be reviewed after six months, so Elliot is likely to be in touch with our newsmakers soon.

### **SCONUL WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY OF COSTS, 4 MAY**

SCONUL's event to discuss the transparency of costing was seen as a great success by its capacity attendance of 34 delegates. Senior library managers heard from expert speakers and welcomed the chance to share information about the costs of their operations, and how to approach the task of assigning costs to their processes.

#### **HEFCE ANNOUNCES TRAC (TRANSPARENT APPROACH TO COSTING) STRATEGY GROUP**

Last month HEFCE formed a new group to lead strategy in the TRAC area - see <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/finance/fundinghe/transparencyreview/>

#### **UK COLLABORATIVE COLLECTION MANAGEMENT**

Sally Curry has been appointed to the role of the Collaborative Collection Management (CCM) Programme Adviser. The post is jointly funded by CURL ([www.curl.ac.uk](http://www.curl.ac.uk)) and the Research Information Network ([www.rin.ac.uk](http://www.rin.ac.uk)), and will focus on advocacy to raise the profile of CCM, and on identifying potential subjects for collaborative management. Sally will also be working to gauge the level of support needed for the development of successful CCM across the UK, and she has already begin liaising with the UK Research Reserve, mentioned in last month's e-bulletin. An Expert Workshop on CCM will be held in July to assist in clarifying the community's needs and priorities for CCM.

If you are wondering - Collaborative Collection Management (CCM) is the collaborative approach, both locally and nationally, to securing long term retention, management and development of the distributed UK Research Collection and preserving access to these resources.

#### **EBLIDA ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The small but energetic library lobbying group EBLIDA, which pursues library interests in the European institutions, held its annual meeting in Reykjavik this month. Newly elected as President is Gerald Leitner, secretary general of the Austrian Library Association, and SCONUL is again represented on the new Executive Committee with the re-election of Toby Bainton. Press releases at <http://www.eblida.org/index.php?page=press-releases>

#### **RoMEO & JULIET HELP SHERPA WIN PRESTIGIOUS EUROPEAN AWARD**

In April, the JISC-funded SHERPA partnership, based at the University of Nottingham, was awarded the prestigious SPARC Europe Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scholarly Communications.

The award recognises SHERPA's practical solutions to a number of problems including the

Repositories Support project, to deliver best practice around digital institutional repositories. Also SHERPA's development of a suite of tools in support of Open Access, including OpenDOAR (a world-wide directory of repositories hosting freely available peer-reviewed publications), JULIET (a listing of funding bodies' policies regarding deposit mandates) and RoMEO (listing publishers' copyright policies in relation to articles deposit)'. [www.sherpa.ac.uk](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk)

#### **DIGITAL REPOSITORIES AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES**

Though they relate to Australian law, the copyright guides produced by the OAK Law project will be of interest to anyone interested in the legal aspects of electronic theses, and digital repositories generally. See : A guide to developing open access through your digital repository, and Copyright guide for research students - what you need to know about copyright before depositing your electronic thesis in an online repository at <http://www.oaklaw.qut.edu.au/>

#### **NEW CLAUSES IN MODEL LICENCE FOR JISC DEALS FROM 2008**

The widely-respected 'NESLi2' licence used for journal deals negotiated on behalf of JISC has been modified to give an improved definition of 'Authorised Users' amongst other things. See <http://www.nesli2.ac.uk/model.htm>

#### **THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES DIGITISE CABINET PAPERS**

The National Archives (UK) have been awarded £800,000 by JISC to digitise and make available online over 500,000 Cabinet papers (including minutes and memoranda) from 1917 to 1975. The service will included study packages for A Level and higher education students. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/149.htm>

#### **INTUTE 'DISCOVERS THE BEST OF THE WEB'**

Online resource provider Intute has published a selection of booklets to demonstrate the resources on offer for students, lecturers and researchers. Nine 'best of the web' booklets on a variety of subjects are now freely available at [www.intute.ac.uk/support.html](http://www.intute.ac.uk/support.html)