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# News from SCONUL

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## BRIEF NEWS

Recent statistics show steady growth in the use of SCONUL Access – the single reciprocal access scheme for researchers and part-time and distance-learning students. Over 12,000 researchers and 11,000 sub-doctoral students used SCONUL Access last year. SCONUL is delighted that the Research Information Network has decided to continue its financial support for the scheme, including a special non-recurrent grant to help the smallest institutions formerly members of the forerunner scheme UK Libraries Plus.

A SCONUL idea for a 'Copyright Ombudsman' was discussed at a hearing of the UK Parliament's Skills Select Committee. SCONUL's Secretary attended the Committee session alongside the Chair of the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance as part of an inquiry into the work of the Copyright Tribunal.

The number of European universities and research institutions using repositories to disseminate their research outputs grew to 230 by the end of 2006 according to a new study from the EC-funded DRIVER project. The 'European Repository Landscape' study produced an inventory of digital repositories in the 27 countries of the European Union and offers thoughts on next steps forward.

The influential journal Science has reversed course and rejoined JSTOR - the electronic collection of journal backfiles, to which many SCONUL libraries subscribe. The move follows a petition signed by SCONUL in October 2007 protesting against the withdrawal of Science.

JISC have launched P3M - a set of 'infoKits' to help with the three 'Ps' of Project, Programme and Portfolio Management.

The Research Information Network has published reports on two major consultations. The first on data sharing responded to a request from the Prime Minister to examine access to and sharing of personal information. The second looked at the Research Excellence Framework (the successor to

the RAE) and found an overwhelming response from librarians that bibliometrics alone are felt to be an unreliable measure of quality.

Harvard University has become the first US higher education institution to introduce a mandatory open-access repository for its scholars' work. Every article by any faculty member will be deposited in the university library unless he or she requests to opt out. Also in the US, a study found that less than a third of the papers generated with Wellcome Trust funding are making it into the public domain - in direct contravention of the Trust's open-access policies.

Four priorities for HEFCE were laid out by Minister John Denham in a letter outlining HEFCE's recent grant settlement. The priorities include increasing student numbers, building the relationship between employers and higher education and improving accessibility of higher education to all parts of society.

Two major documents are set to shape how libraries work with the NHS.

The first - the National Review of NHS Health Library Systems in England provides in-depth commentary on the current context of health libraries and the Cilip/SCONUL Health Strategy Group is working closely with author Professor Hill on the issues raised.

The second document, the National Service Framework, is a quality assurance framework to replace the current Helicon accreditation. The intention is that library/knowledge services are aligned to the business needs of the NHS and are seen to deliver on need and expectation.

The SCONUL Working Group on Performance Improvement has established a new private mailing list for members who prepare the SCONUL annual statistical return. To join 'LIS-SCONUL-STATS', contact [jean.yeoh@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:jean.yeoh@kcl.ac.uk).

A new group to represent health and medical librarians has been formed. The University Health & Medical Librarians Group (UHMLG) aims to bring together information professionals from higher education, the National Health Service and other sectors.

In the Westminster Parliament, the Select Committee on Innovation, Universities and Skills added 'science' to their name and list of responsibilities. In an unrelated development, JISC Collections have made available House of Commons Parlia-

mentary Papers from 1901-2004 (all 9.5 million pages of them), free of charge to all staff and students at UK universities.

'Libraries Unleashed', a major supplement exploring the future of the academic library was published in the Guardian on 22 April 2008. The wide-ranging supplement included a feature on library design explaining how university libraries are building areas for both tranquil study and louder group working.

SCONUL guidelines for librarians helping international students were reported in Times Higher Education magazine on 29 May 2008

The Research Information Network (RIN) has commissioned research on the, 'Activities, costs and funding flows in scholarly communications'. RIN's latest report backed by SCONUL, RLUK and the Publishing Research Consortium is an important piece of research, providing for the first time an overall picture of the costs of the scholarly communications system as a whole. It calculated that the global cost each year of undertaking and communicating the results of research reported in journals is £175bn.

Following up April's Library Management Systems report, SCONUL is working with JISC and Sero Consulting on the TILE (Towards Implementation of Library 2.0 and the E-Framework) study. The study will investigate the effects of Library 2.0 both on services and the e-framework.

The SCONUL Working Groups on Performance Improvement and Quality Assurance have teamed up to assess the value and impact of the National Student Survey on libraries. SCONUL members should get in touch with Tracey Stanley at University of York for details.

A consultancy engaged by HEFCE invited SCONUL to contribute to their submission towards the next Comprehensive Spending Review, and in particular to identify the 'real' cost of providing an appropriate quality UK higher education student experience. SCONUL hopes to make available to members the evidence it submitted to this inquiry.

Portsmouth's new multi-million pound 'green' university library has been shortlisted for a design award from the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The UK LOCKSS (Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) pilot concluded having achieved its overall ambition to set up a UK alliance of 30 higher education libraries. However a report found its aim of building a substantial collection of e-journals had not been wholly achieved because a number of larger publishers had not joined.

The M25 Consortium of academic libraries, led by LSE, received funding from HEFCE's Shared Services programme for its 'WAM25 project', a study to look into the feasibility of a pilot project to provide walk-in access to e-resources within the Consortium's libraries.

JISC TechDis, in collaboration with the RNIB, has published two new resources to help university librarians and their institutions improve provision for disabled students. The 'Publisher Lookup UK' and 'Guide to Obtaining Textbooks in Alternative Formats' are both designed to increase use of alternative formats such as e-books and PDFs for the reading-impaired. The resources are part of JISC's ongoing 'Libraries of the Future' campaign.