

The coming year, as ever, looks busy. We shall continue to liaise directly with suppliers and data centres with issues such as accessibility, information skills support material repositories and JISC/EduServ costing models and licence terms high on the agenda.

Our major communication channels are the JIBS website, www.jibs.ac.uk, and our emailing lists – details of which can be found on the website. Please do take the time to look at the site and contact any of the Committee members if you have specific questions.

F. Boyle

Biography May 2004

My current post is Electronic Resources Manager at the University of Oxford based in the Systems and Electronic Resources Services Department (SERS) of Oxford University Library Services. The ever widening remit includes the management and development of electronic resources within a large complex environment. My responsibility not only lies in looking at acquiring the content but also maintaining and further developing the user interfaces and the integration and repurposing of information.

I am involved closely with institutional wide developments such as the VLE, portal and eprint repositories. I have been and continue to be involved in a number of national externally funded projects including SHERPA, INFORMS and DCOCE. Issues that we are currently grappling with include federated searching, content management systems and developing user support. My previous incarnations include posts at the University of Liverpool, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

I have served as a member of the UKSG Committee and I am currently the Chair of the JIBS User Group Committee. I have presented and written widely on the subject of electronic resources management over a number of years.

Bibliography

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Online

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WALES ON THE WEB

Wales on the Web (<http://www.walesontheweb.org/>) is a bilingual online guide providing access to Wales-related information and services on the web. This All Wales Portal contains over 3500 websites chosen and evaluated by staff based at the National Library of Wales. The service is funded by Cymru Ar-lein of the Welsh Assembly Government.

OCLC FIRSTSEARCH

OCLC plan to discontinue access to the Union Lists of Periodicals database via OCLC FirstSearch on August 31, 2004. The database will be removed from the OCLC Base Package and will not be updated as previously scheduled. OCLC report that while there has been declining usage of the Union Lists of Periodicals database, local data records have been available to users via WorldCat for over the past year. They assert that union list information via WorldCat is more visible, complete and current.

INGENTACONNECT

Ingenta have announced the first Beta site launch of [IngentaConnect.com](http://www.ingentaconnect.com) (<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/>) – a single point of web access to content (including electronic journals)

currently available via Ingenta.com and IngentaSelect.com. While the final site launch is planned for late summer 2004, the site does currently allow for searching and browsing and further enhancements will be released before the final launch. Until IngentaConnect.com goes live, Ingenta.com and IngentaSelect.com will continue to run as normal alongside the Beta site and will remain the access platform for users until the unified platform is completed.

BRITISH LIBRARY

JISC (<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/>) and the British Library (www.bl.uk) have announced 2 new collaborative projects which aim to provide digital resources to support learning, teaching and research in HE and FE. The latest is "British Newspapers 1800 – 1900", a £2m project with funding from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). This online Newspaper Archive project will digitise over one million pages of fully searchable texts and associated images from out-of-copyright 19th century newspapers from the British Library. The newspapers will be selected through an online consultation with the further and higher education communities in the summer of 2004. This project follows closely on from a project to digitise 12,000 items of sound recordings from the British Library's Sound Archive. The Archival Sound Recordings is a £1m project, with funding from HEFCE. This online resource of nearly 4,000 hours of recordings will include classical and popular music, broadcast radio, oral history, and field and location recordings of traditional music and will be made freely available to further and higher education.

CROSSREF SEARCH PILOT

A group of journal publishers are participating in the CrossRef Search Pilot (<http://www.crossref.org/crossrefsearch.html>) during 2004 which will assess the value of "a free, federated, full-text, interdisciplinary, interpublisher search focussed on the peer-reviewed scholarly literature". This pilot initially involves 9 of the 290 CrossRef publishers: American Physical Society; Annual Reviews; Association for Computing Machinery; Blackwell Publishing; Institute of Physics Publishing; International Union of Crystallography; Nature Publishing Group; Oxford University Press; and John Wiley & Sons. Through a special, reciprocal arrangement between Google and CrossRef, this Pilot launches a Google search with filtered results limited to the full text of journal articles from the participating publishers. This cross-publisher search can be launched from the site of any of the involved publishers' websites or from Google.com itself.

BIOMED CENTRAL

Following news last year that JISC had funded a 15-month BioMed Central membership agreement, allowing all UK HE staff to freely publish in BioMed Central's 90+ peer-reviewed journals in which all research content is freely accessible, BioMed Central (<http://biomedcentral.com/>) now report that all universities, polytechnics and research institutes in Finland have become BioMed Central members. This involves 25000 publicly funded researchers and teachers who will now have free publication in and access to all BioMed Central journals.

OPEN-ACCESS JOURNALS INDEXED IN ISI

Thomson-ISI has reported that ISI currently indexes content from nearly 200 Open Access journal titles. A list of titles covered is available from (<http://www.isinet.com/oaj/>).

DOAJ

The Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://www.doaj.org/>) has been updated to include article level records. Of the over 1100 open access journals indexed on DOAJ, 270 of these are now searchable at article level – providing direct access to freely available full text online of peer-reviewed scholarly journals.

Internet News

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The Last Mile

This is a term given to the final stage of internet access and, for some hopeful users, can be the most difficult. A recent development is a wireless technology that utilises roadside furniture, lampposts, road signs etc., containing low-powered transceivers thus enabling very localised access <http://www.lastmilecoms.com/>. Could this be the technology to bring broadband to everyone?

Bye bye IE

Not being particularly "techie", I always resisted changing from Microsoft products on the basis that at least they, sort of, worked together and had a familiar feel. However, there seems to be a major problem with Internet Explorer, which may have caused my recent computer crash due to a virus. I have found an item on the why's and wherefore's of replacing IE and will be taking my courage in both