

Press Releases

Call for Papers: Society of Indexers Conference 2012

11-13 July 2012, Brighton

Papers are invited for presentation to a plenary (full conference) session. The theme of the conference is international perspectives on indexing and we would welcome papers on this theme or other relevant topics. For example, we would be interested in papers on the impact of globalisation, the internet, publishers' outsourcing, working transnationally or social networks and indexing. Please submit your abstract to the Secretary of the 2012 Brighton Conference Committee at 2012conference@indexers.org.uk by 30 November 2011.

The Society of Indexers was founded in 1957 and works to promote indexing, the quality of indexes and the profession of indexing. Further details are here

<http://www.indexers.org.uk/index.php?id=1>.

Swets publishes first Serials Price Increase Report for 2012

8 November, 2011: Every year, Swets collects pricing information from thousands of publishers worldwide. This is published as a Serials Price Increase Report which contains a wealth of data covering thousands of publications. The report is published in stages, with the first appearing in

October with monthly updates following until the final, full report is made available in the February of the following year. The first report for 2012 is now available for download from the following address.

<http://www.swets.com/sw/information-center/general>

An additional historical report, providing an overview of prices from 2001 onwards, is also available for customers and can be downloaded from the same page.

Social media technologies to improve the discovery of educational content

8 November 2011: The UK is to participate in a global experiment, based on the social media technology behind Twitter and Facebook, to find out how the social activity around online educational content can be captured and fed back to users, creators and publishers.

Working with the Learning Registry, a project funded by the US Department of Education and the US Department of Defence, JISC and the HE Academy are calling for institutions and developers to work with them on a new 10 month project. This project will lay the foundations of an infrastructure that will improve the way people choose educational information online.

Amber Thomas, JISC programme manager says, "This international collaboration will see us

contributing the UK's expertise to the Learning Registry. We are working with Mimas and JISC CETIS to support the Registry's vision of gathering together the conversations, ratings, recommendations and usage data around digital content.

"We know that users and providers want access to more information about how educational content is used by others and this is an innovative approach to meeting that need."

It is commonplace to read reviews of books, music and items before you choose to buy or use them. This experiment will look to assess how we can create the technical capabilities to reveal a rich picture of what people are doing with educational content.

Steve Midgley, Deputy Director, Office of Education Technology at the US Department of Education says, "I am greatly encouraged by the collaboration and opportunity presented by our work with JISC on the Learning Registry."

Read more on the Learning Registry at <http://www.learningregistry.org/about>

Find out about the Learning Registry Node Experiment at <http://bit.ly/w0XBCb>.

USTC Project wins further £1m grant

28 October 2011: The Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) project group has won a further research grant worth £983,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This will allow the

project group to continue its work charting the publication history of the first centuries of print.

Welcoming the new grant, project director Professor Andrew Pettegree commented: 'We are tremendously encouraged to have this new expression of confidence from the academic community for the work being done here in St Andrews. It is particularly gratifying to have this news just before the USTC is launched on-line for the first time.'

The project, which will continue under the joint direction of Professor Pettegree and Dr Malcolm Walsby, will allow for the appointment of three postdoctoral fellows and two doctoral studentships. The grant, which will extend the work of the project from 2012 to 2016, will provide for the USTC to continue its coverage into the seventeenth century, doubling the size of the database to around 700,000 editions. By extending the survey from 1600 to 1650, it will offer a full view of the first two centuries of print, a period in which print finally came of age as a mature and independent means of communication and information exchange. The early 17th century was a particularly dramatic time of explosive growth for print in northern Europe and the project will reflect this in increasing attention to pamphlets, broadsheets and the first newspapers.

The USTC goes live online on 22 November.

Open access success: be inspired by over thirty compelling stories

27 October 2011: Open Access Week 2011 is full of inspiration on the benefits of free immediate

access to the results of scholarly research. Now more than 30 compelling stories have been collected from across Europe showcasing the transformative effects of open access.

The stories have been commissioned by Knowledge Exchange, a Europe-wide initiative that supports the use and development of the technology infrastructure for higher education and research, of which JISC is a member.

They come from over 11 countries and are told by a wide variety of stakeholders, from individual researchers and journal editors to publishers and companies, and cover a multitude of disciplines.

Dr Malcolm Read, executive secretary at JISC, said: "It's interesting to see that even though these stories represent a diverse range of initiatives, some recent, some historical, they all share a common thread. That thread is that they have all been collaborative exercises - with people looking to share the benefits of their work beyond their own institutions."

One example is First Monday, a 15-year-old open-access journal about the internet. It was launched in May 1996 and is now one of the longest established, most respected peer reviewed journals of the internet. By August 2011 it had published 1,133 papers in 181 issues, written by 1,469 different authors representing institutions in over 30 different countries. It is read in 180 different countries.

Read more:

<http://www.oastories.org/2011/09/denmarkus-journal-first-monday/>

Another story tells of how a repository can successfully build relationships with publishers.

Pedocs is a German educational science archive that uses an innovative cooperation model with German publishing houses to make available freely and openly a wealth of high quality pedagogic literature. Set up in 2008, in the last three years it has developed cooperative relationships with more than 25 small- and medium-sized German educational literature publishing houses.

Read more:

<http://www.oastories.org/2011/09/germany-repository-pedocs/>

The stories can be found on a dedicated, easy-to-use website and are open for comments and ready to share. They are not only free for all to read and refer to, but they are also licensed under a creative commons license. To allow for easier re-use the stories will be available for download and use in other publications and websites.

The Knowledge Exchange comprises:

- JISC in the UK <http://www.jisc.ac.uk>
- Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF) <http://www.deff.dk/>
- German Research Foundation (DFG) <http://www.dfg.de/>
- SURF foundation in the Netherlands <http://www.surffoundation.nl/>

Skeletons, English Place Names and Health Reports to go online

26 October 2011: Learners, educators and citizen scientists will benefit from an 18 month digitisation programme launching today, which will bring back to life scientific medical archives, historical records and health reports.

JISC will be investing £5.6 million in 24 projects across 30 universities and cultural heritage organisations to bring selected archives out of the vaults and onto computer screens, specifically with the aim of creating resources for wide educational use. These archives will be publicly accessible too which means citizens scientists, school pupils and the general public will benefit as well as historians, medics and biologists in this growing UK collection of digital resources for research, teaching and learning.

Alastair Dunning JISC's programme manager explains why this work is taking place and the reasons for continuing to unearth national archives to make them accessible for everyone.

"JISC believes that publicly-funded archives and collections should whenever possible be made openly available for people to be able to see, reuse and access.

"These new collections vary greatly. King's College London is leading a project to digitise the entire 86-volume corpus of the Survey of English Place-Names, while the University of Bradford is running 'Digitised Diseases' which seeks to bridge the gap between modern clinical medicine and the use of historic medical collections. They will achieve this by digitising pathological skeletal specimens from world-renowned archaeological collections in Bradford and London. The new collections to be digitised also include over 150 years worth of annual reports summarising the health of Greater London's population, held by the Wellcome Library."

This programme of work supports the findings of the [Seizing the opportunity for online learning for UK higher education report](#) which recommended,

the use of online learning to enhance student choice and meet learners' expectations; realignment of training and development to support academics to play a leading role in online provision; and the development and sharing of open educational resources to enhance efficiency and quality.

To find out more about this latest phase of digitisation projects visit: <http://bit.ly/sMFwNj> and to view existing online content already available visit: <http://bit.ly/to2sds>

How can universities support economic growth and innovation? Take the open road

24 October 2011: JISC welcomes the UK Open Access Implementation Group's (OAIG) reports and new repositories resource pack <http://bit.ly/nq4Q5i> released today.

The Benefits to the Private Sector of Open Access to Higher Education and Scholarly Research report <http://bit.ly/nzP0hn> and the Open Access Fees Report <http://bit.ly/oXkgxg>, show the outcomes of research into the benefits of open access to commercial companies and findings from a consultation on the practicalities of paying for open access publication.

Taken together, these present a major step towards releasing UK research to underpin the nation's prospects for growth both now, via direct innovation, and into the future, via a more efficient and effective research infrastructure.

Professor Martin, Hall vice-chancellor at the University of Salford and chair of the OAIG says,

“The report ‘Benefits to the Private Sector of Open Access to Higher Education and Scholarly Research’ shows how commercial companies would benefit from reduced costs, less time wasting, and shortened development cycles by having greater access to UK research outputs.

“It shows how UK universities can make a direct impact, and much needed contribution to business growth and sustainability, by making their research outputs more easily discoverable and translated into the language recognised by businesses as relevant to them.”

The evidence suggests that these benefits would flow across a wide range of sectors of the UK knowledge economy, and supports previous research which estimated benefits in the order of £100m per year.

Neil Jacobs, JISC programme manager for JISC’s digital infrastructure says, “There is certainly work to do to translate academic research into innovation and growth, for example in promoting research expertise and providing trusted and skilled brokerage services. JISC through its business and community engagement programme is providing some of the tools and methods for this to happen, but without open access to the research findings themselves, this work cannot be fully effective.”

Open access requires action by universities, funders and publishers to work together to make this happen. The OAIG has commissioned JISC Collections to produce the ‘Open Access Fees Report’ which consulted with these groups and other organisations on the arrangements whereby payment is made for open access publication.

Professor Martin Hall, OAIG chair, notes that “During this consultation process there was a lot of agreement that open access journal publishing is making an important contribution, both to widening access to UK research, and to the success of UK publishers. However, there is still practical work to do to smooth the way for researchers, universities, funders and publishers.

“The ways forward identified in this report are both practical and the product of consensus. The UK Open Access Implementation Group will continue to press for expanded access to UK research, to meet our nation’s need for innovation and growth based on a strong public science base.”

A new repositories resource pack <http://bit.ly/nq4Q5i> is also being launched today to help universities take immediate action to support wider access to UK research, by ensuring that as much of their research output as possible is made openly available via their institutional repository. The resource pack brings together all the information and guidance that UK universities might need in taking the policy decisions and practical steps for this to happen.

Members of the OAIG have agreed a 2012 strategy <http://bit.ly/pPjyYc> to help implement the recommendations from these reports and build on the past 12 months of its work.

This strategy includes:

- increasing the numbers of universities with policies supporting open access
- better compliance with funders’ OA policies

- commissioning work to monitor progress, and so chart the UK's moves toward a better system for communicating
- research, supporting our researchers, knowledge workers and entrepreneurs.