Press Releases

OCLC's EZproxy available as a hosted service in Europe

1 June 2012, Birmingham, UK: Beginning in June 2012, University of the Arts London will be piloting an EZproxy authentication service hosted in OCLC's new data centre in London. The service will go live for libraries in Europe, Middle East and Africa, once the pilot has concluded in the summer.

EZproxy is the most widely used authentication and remote access software for libraries in the world. It manages institutional data about staff and users, domains and IT settings plus libraries' electronic collections to facilitate access to online materials both inside and outside institutional IP ranges. The service ensures that a user's interaction and engagement with their library's e-resources can be the same, wherever they happen to be when accessing them.

The growth in investment in e-resources by libraries and the increasing numbers of users who choose to connect with these resources remotely has put even greater emphasis on the need for robust and trusted technology to manage increasing levels of access requests. EZproxy has been available for libraries to deploy for 12 years, attracting over 4,000 customers worldwide.

The hosted service is expected to attract interest from libraries that are looking for a fully managed service where all aspects of its setup and configuration--plus its ongoing maintenance including IT monitoring, security, backup and recovery--will also be provided.

Paul Mellinger, Electronic Information Manager at University of the Arts London said,

"The reason we chose hosted EZproxy was because University of the Arts London required a quick and simple replacement for our existing hosted proxy server. Since EZproxy is the most widely-used proxy server for libraries, it was the obvious choice. The ease of set-up and ongoing maintenance of the hosted version replicated our previous experience of using a hosted proxy server and therefore made it the ideal choice for integration with our library discovery service. We very much look forward to full implementation".

To find out more about hosted EZproxy, OCLC are running a free-to-attend online introduction to the service on Friday 27th July at 2:00pm BST (3.00pm CEST). To register to attend please go to www.oclc.org/info/hostedezproxy.

Georgia State Cleared of Most Publisher Infringement Claims (Update 1)

May 14 2012 – A judge cleared Georgia State University of most copyright violation claims brought by academic publishers including Oxford University Press over using unlicensed book excerpts in course materials.

U.S. District Judge Orinda Evans held the university liable for five copyright-infringement claims, after conducting a non-jury trial last year, according to a filing dated May 11 in Atlanta federal court.

The publishers, which also included Cambridge University Press and Sage Publications Inc., sued in April 2008. They listed 99 alleged infringements, in which professors made portions of works available electronically to students. The university claimed fair use, which under copyright law means that small excerpts can be used for purposes such as teaching or journalism without violation. Georgia State changed its policy in 2009 to insure that professors adhered to fair use guidelines.

"The court does believe that defendants, in adopting the 2009 policy, tried to comply with the Copyright Act," Evans said in the ruling.

The Association of American Publishers said in a statement today that the judge's "analysis of fair use principles was legally incorrect in some places and its application of those principles mistaken." The AAP praised some aspects of the ruling.

No 'Sufficient Guidance'

"The court held GSU's new policy accountable for specific infringements," the AAP said. "The court also criticized the GSU policy for failing to limit unauthorized copying to 'decidedly small excerpts,' failing to proscribe unauthorized use of multiple chapters from a single work and failing to provide sufficient guidance to faculty concerning the potentially adverse effect of such mass copying."

Also sued were the university's board of regents and its president, Mark Becker.

"The court's ruling is significant not only for Georgia State University, but for all educational fair use in general," Becker said in a statement. "Georgia State is pleased to have been a trailblazer in this increasingly complex digital copyright environment."

The judge told the publishers to file papers within 20 days for the relief they seek on the material found to be infringing. The university will then be able to file any opposition to the proposed relief.

'Reduce the Chances'

"We are pleased that the District Court ruling recognized that Georgia State University's flawed 2009 copyright policy resulted in infringement of our works," Christian Purdy, a spokesman for Oxford University Press, said in an e-mailed statement. "We will work on an injunction that will reduce the chances that GSU will infringe works posted to its eReserve system in the future."

The works that the judge found were infringed include three editions of "The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research," "The Power Elite," and "Utilization-Focused Evaluation."

Other works listed in the lawsuit included Oxford's "The Slave Community," Cambridge's "Liszt: Sonata in B minor," and Sage's "Crabgrass Frontier."

"In contrast to GSU, we have seen other academic institutions employ a more reasonable approach to fair use and exhibit a greater respect for the intellectual property they use," Linda Phillips of the Copyright Clearance Center said in an e-mailed statement. The CCC collects royalties from colleges and other organizations for the use of copyrighted materials.

The case is Cambridge University Press v. Becker, 08-01425, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia (Atlanta).

Mendeley Institutional Edition goes live on Swets sites

10 May 2012: Mendeley Institutional Edition (MIE) is for academic institutions and research groups, who want to provide improved services to researchers. The MIE is a research service provided by libraries that improves the productivity of researchers, and gives the library the real-time visibility they need to continuously improve their services. Unlike alternative products that only provide pieces of the solution, our service delivers clear value to both libraries and their customers

The Mendeley Institutional Edition combines a premium version of the leading Mendeley research worktool, that gives the most productive integrated combination of reference management, research content discovery and collaboration; and give libraries the unique analytics that lets them connect content use with consequent research publications and the readership of these publications. These analytics also help the library identify how to continuously improve their services. This is a cloud based real time platform.

"The success and continued rapid growth of Mendeley to date has already delivered a fantastic new tool for researchers" said David Main, CEO at Swets, "This new service delivered by libraries gives an premium service to researchers and gives libraries the connection to researchers and their activities that they need in this digital world".

Speaking of the launch, Victor Henning, Managing Director of Mendeley said, "With our cloud based tool, librarians will have a deeper visibility and understanding of their own content use and the impact of their research output. Mendeley Institutional Edition helps provide this and we're delighted to be working with Swets to open up and increase the visibility of this data. In addition, it will help them build private collaborative groups for their students, researchers and

professors to network and share their knowledge."

Europe's national librarians support Open Data licensing

Copenhagen, 28 September 2011: Meeting at the Royal Library of Denmark, the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), has voted overwhelmingly to support the open licensing of their data. CENL represents Europe's national libraries, and is responsible for the massive collection of publications that represent the accumulated knowledge of Europe.

What does that mean in practice? It means that the datasets describing all the millions of books and texts ever published in Europe – the title, author, date, imprint, place of publication and so on, which exists in the vast library catalogues of Europe – will become increasingly accessible for anybody to re-use for whatever purpose they want. It will mean that Wikipedia can use the metadata, linking it to all sorts of articles; it will mean that apps developers can embed it in new mobile tools for tourism or teaching. Crucially, for information scientists, it will mean that vast quantities of trustworthy data are available for Linked Open Data developments, creating relationships between elements of information that's never been possible before.

The potential to create new relationships between datasets from Europe's greatest libraries creates what an expert in Semantic Web technology, Dr Stefan Gradmann, Professor of Library and

Information Science at Humboldt University, Berlin, has called a 'knowledge-generating engine'.

The first outcome of the open licence agreement is that the metadata provided by national libraries to Europeana.eu, Europe's digital library, museum and archive, via the CENL service The European Library, will have a Creative Commons Universal Public Domain Dedication, or CC0 licence. This metadata relates to millions of digitised texts and images coming into Europeana from initiatives that include Google's mass digitisations of books in the national libraries of the Netherlands and Austria.

Bruno Racine, new Chair of CENL and President of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann, former Chair of CENL and Director of the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, welcomed the leadership shown by CENL. Dr Niggemann said, 'Providing data under an open licence is key to putting cultural institutions like our national libraries at the heart of innovations in digital applications. Only in that way can society derive full social and economic benefit from the data that we've created to record Europe's published output over the past 500 years. The best analogy is between bottled water and a water main. Rather than bottling it and branding it, we're putting data on tap, so that everyone has free and open access, and can use it for whatever purpose they need.'

This resonates with the words of the European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, Neelie Kroes, who in her speech to the Open Europe Summit this week said, 'I am convinced that the potential to re-use public data is significantly untapped. Such data is a resource, a new and

valuable raw material… To mine it would be an investment which would pay-off with benefits for all of us.' As well as demonstrating strategic leadership in the heritage and information sectors, the pay-off for the libraries is twofold. Firstly, as their data becomes pervasive online, it will lead users back to its source, encouraging visits both online and onsite. Secondly, their data will be enriched by contact with complementary data sources, and be available for them to re-use to upgrade their own services to users.

Notes: Founded in 1987, the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) develops the role of national libraries in Europe, in particular their responsibilities for maintaining the national cultural heritage, ensuring the accessibility of knowledge and support for related research and development activities. Members of CENL are the national librarians of the member states of the Council of Europe. CENL consists of 49 members from 46 Council of Europe countries. The full Conference meets annually, and this year met earlier this week in Copenhagen at the National Library of Denmark. CENL owns The European Library, which brings together the bibliographic and digital content of the libraries to support pan-European research in the humanities and social sciences. It also acts as the libraries' aggregator for Europeana.

Ticer Digital Libraries Summer School

Ticer 15th International Summer School on Digital Libraries will be held at Tilburg University, the Netherlands from August 21 to 24, 2012. Top speakers include: David Lankes, Norbert Lossau, Herbert Van de Sompel, Cameron Neylon, and Sarah Houghton. Ticer's course director will be Lorcan Dempsey, Vice President OCLC Research and Chief Strategist. Some of the subjects covered:

- The atlas of future librarianship

- Libraries and the reform of scholarly communication

- Research data and the role of the library

- Strategic impact of cloud based services

- OCLC WorldShare and Ex Libris' Alma * Synchronizing Web resources

- Collaborative science

- New roles for the subject / liaison librarians

- The new learning environment: impact on staff and students

- Strategic use of social media

Ticer is part of Library and IT Services of Tilburg University, the Netherlands. Please visit for more details: http://www.tilburguniversity.edu/ticer

Northern Ireland TV news archive released

19 April 2012: In partnership, the BBC, British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC) and JISC today announce the launch of Chronicle, a project to make BBC Northern Ireland's television news from the 1960s and 1970s available to the academic community online. The collection can

be seen at http://chronicle.bufvc.ac.uk/. The audio-visual archives of the BBC contain a wealth of material gathered since it was founded in the 1920s but they remains largely inaccessible, held on film or videotape and managed to serve the needs of programme-makers within the BBC. Chronicle makes part of that archive available to UK higher and further education by digitising news and current affairs programmes from the BBC Northern Ireland's vaults. This gives teachers, students and researchers the chance to explore and immerse themselves in the events over an important period (1963-1976) of Northern Ireland's history, delivering a rich and contextual experience from a political, historical and cultural perspective.

After several years of informal collaboration between the BBC and JISC, today also marks the start of a new partnership as the two organisations sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support the promotion of their common purposes, especially with regard to education, learning and culture. Signed by Caroline Thomson BBC chief operating officer and executive secretary of JISC Professor Martyn Harrow at the New Broadcasting House, and managed by a joint steering committee, the MOU will enable the two organisations to develop their joint interest in encouraging the creation and use of a wide range of audio visual and cultural assets to support education, research and public use. Chronicle will provide authenticated users with access to digitised copies of news and current affairs material covering Northern Ireland and 'The Troubles', along with web-based tools allowing them to be searched, viewed and annotated. Other advantages of this project are considerable, not least as there exists very little audiovisual content, covering Northern Ireland historically, politically or culturally during

the sixties and seventies in any depth, even though a number of organisations and academics have indicated a 'significant need' for such materials. Additionally, there was a strong archival need to digitise the material from the period: between 1963 and 1981 news material was recorded on 16mm film and a significant proportion of this footage is now in need of preservation while coverage from 1981 onward was recorded on Beta or Digibeta tape and at much less risk of deterioration.

The project has also been shaped by an academic steering group made up of scholars from participating institutions (University of Westminster, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, St Mary's University College and Royal Holloway University of London) who are reviewing the academic value of the project as it runs. Martin Doherty, Department of Social and Historical Studies, University of Westminster, says: "The value of the BBC Northern Ireland News footage cannot be overstated. Access to this corpus of materials means that at the same time as fostering understanding and appreciation of 'The Troubles' within education, the academy is also given the opportunity to build on this through new avenues of research using innovative techniques."

Caroline Thomson, chief operating officer of the BBC, says: "The BBC is committed to making the best possible use of its enormous archive, and this project is an important step forward in finding ways to use archive material to serve both the academic community and the BBC's broader public purposes. We are very excited to be able to share this significant collection, not only because of the light it will shed on recent history but because we

will be able to apply the expertise gained to other archive-related activities across the BBC."

Martyn Harrow, executive secretary of JISC, says: "Partnerships like this one with the BBC are extremely important to us. We are able to share our respective knowledge, skills and resources for the 'common good' of British creativity, ingenuity and economic growth. Working together shows how archive content can be 'opened up' for the benefit of higher and further education which in the case of this project means it provides the opportunity for rich content to be embedded into teaching, learning and research."

True cost of university FOI requests revealed

11 April 2012: The true cost to a university of processing a freedom of information (FOI) request has been revealed by JISC infoNet. The research shows that in the seven institutions surveyed, an FOI request takes a university an average of 5 hours 2 minutes to respond, at a cost of £99 rising to £121 when employment overheads are taken into consideration. The report suggests that factors influencing these costs include the size of the institution, the nature of the request and possibly the maturity of the institution's records management system.

As Steve Bailey, the senior adviser at JISC infoNet who managed the research, explains: "From the data we have there appear to be certain elements responsible for influencing the costs involved in processing requests over which the institution has now control; its size, for example, where the bigger the institution the more complex and therefore more costly the process is likely to be. There will also always be an element of luck involved with a question which one institution might find relatively easy to answer proving difficult and vice versa, simply due to the exact wording of the request and the way in which each institution functions. "However, a good records management system seems to have the potential to streamline the identification, location and access of required information; whilst ensuring staff at the most appropriate grade are engaged in each stage of the process may also help universities deal with requests more efficiently."

The research tracked 36 different FOI requests in seven institutions during January 2012. Now that the methodology underpinning this research has proved successful JISC infoNet plans to collect similar data for a further 140 requests over five months later this year. The work was inspired by discussions with UUK.

Nicola Dandridge, chief executive of UUK, said: "Universities are committed to openness and transparency and JISC research has shown that universities respond efficiently to the majority of FOI requests. But this latest research shows that the costs are considerable. We want the Government to look closely at how FOI affects universities and particularly at aspects such as the charging rules, and how FOI relates to unpublished research. Meanwhile, this research will help universities develop their capacity to deal with these requests." The JISC figures appear to be broadly in line with data released earlier this week from the Ministry of Justice study into the costs associated with FOI. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/

research-and-analysis/moj-research/investigative-study-informing-foia.pdf> (PDF) That study suggested an average response time of 5 hours 21 minutes at a cost of £164 for non-central government departments, rising to 6 hours 10 minutes and £184 for central government departments. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives anyone the right to access information held by public authorities, which includes most UK colleges and universities. The full report is available at http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/projects/foi/index_html For advice on how to deal with FOI requests, and the legal issues surrounding them, read JISC Legal's guidance http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/LegalAreas/FreedomofInformation.aspx.