Press Releases

Jisc becomes a charity

5 December 2012: The Association of Colleges (AoC), GuildHE and Universities UK (UUK) along with Jisc's non-executive directors and trustees take the first steps in leading the organisation into 2013.

Over the past 11 months Jisc has been moving towards becoming a separate legal entity and this week becomes a registered charity with a new board of non-executive directors and trustees.

Professor Sir Tim O'Shea, Chair, Jisc and Principal of the University of Edinburgh said: "We are delighted that we are embarking on a new phase of Jisc's history; being owned by the communities that we serve and truly delivering against their needs.

"Our owners, funders and trustees will play a pivotal role in ensuring Jisc is leading the communities that we serve through our strategic pillars. These include providing a high performing digital infrastructure, developing online content and delivering practical advice and guidance that aligns with the needs of UK further education, higher education and skills sectors."

The non-executive directors and trustees share their ambitions for what they see for Jisc's future:

1. Innovation for further education, higher education and skills - lead the way in technology aided learning, product development and new services to keep the education sector ahead of the game at the forefront of international practice

2. Support research at the highest level - deliver against the needs of researchers, providing core infrastructure services and innovation support

3. A fast and powerful network - continue to supply a strong and reliable network to education and research organisations

4. Work in closer collaboration - continue to better understand and deliver against the needs of our customers and users, to ensure a positive student experience and skills transferable to the workplace

5. Business as usual - continue to provide, those highly valued and used services and deliver support, through networks such as our Regional Support Centres, who supported over 2,000 providers in the UK last year

6. Advice and guidance - be a trusted source of expertise for all our customers

7. Drive digital enablement - drive the use of digital technologies to improve efficiency, save money, drive student engagement, benefit the student experience and support innovation

8. Offer services on a large scale - provide services for universities and colleges which they are unable to implement individually.

Report claims improvements needed in article processing charges

27 November 2012: As a response to the Finch report, the UK Open Access Implementation Group (OAIG) examines how intermediaries could help manage the impact an increase in the volumes of open access article processing charges (APCs) could have for universities, funders and publishers.

The implementation of the Finch report and new polices from Research Councils will result in vastly increased volumes of open access publishing in the UK, and in payments of article processing charges (APCs). The "The Potential Role for Intermediaries in Managing the Payment of Open Access Article Processing Charges" report reveals an almost universal consensus that work is required to develop and implement standards to facilitate more effective flows between authors, publishers, universities and funders of information relating to the payment of article processing charges (APCs) - the charges levied by some publishers of open access and hybrid journals to meet the costs of the publication process.

Phil Sykes, university librarian at University of Liverpool, who is a member of OAIG comments: "Institutional leaders, research managers and library directors need to make significant decisions in the next few months, following the Finch Report. This report explores one important potential solution, an intermediary to save time and effort in transactions between publishers and institutions. Now that this excellent report has explored this solution and the issues around it, we

are in a much better position to initiate joint action within the HE sector and beyond."

The report spells out what each group considers as the, important elements necessary to create an efficient and effective gold open access market. These include:

• Scalability

• Low Transaction costs

• Effective Interfaces

• Appropriate Management of information

• Consistency in metadata

The report then outlines a range of potential services that could be provided including:

• Core services relating to the payment transactions

• Value-added services, such as analytical services, negotiations,

• Roles around metadata and user awareness.

It later sets out a series of options for how intermediaries might then provide these services.

"JISC looks forward to playing a leading role in the implantation and investigation of this work," says Neil Jacobs, programme manager at JISC. "We want to ensure that the gold open access market is efficient, effective and transparent, for the benefit of UK higher education and research, and wider society."

According to the report, researchers at a large Russell Group university such as Manchester published 5-6,000 articles and conference proceedings in 2011. Assuming that it takes an average of 60 minutes to make typical APC payment, the workload for handling this number of publications a year would amount to more than a full time post. Yet, according to this new research, only a small number of universities so far have systematic processes in place to manage the workflows of paying for their papers to be published in open access journals. The complex or inefficient processes currently associated with the payment of APCs could present a significant barrier to the wider adoption of open access publishing.

This OAIG report, 'The Potential Role for Intermediaries in Managing the Payment of Open Access Article Processing Charges', was commissioned by the Wellcome Trust and JISC on behalf of the OAIG, and was written by the Research Information Network (RIN). It involved working with a range of universities, funders, publishers and other stakeholders, demonstrating a clear common purpose in UK toward gold open access.

Read the news release on the OAIG website: http://open-access.org.uk/2012/11/27/report-claims-improvements-needed-in-payment-processes-of-article-processing-charges/