THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARIES PROGRAMME

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This programme has as its objectives the use of IT to improve delivery of information, allow academic libraries to cope better with growth, explore different models of intellectual property management, and encourage new methods of scholarly publishing.

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Introduction

Libraries everywhere are aware of the increasing importance of electronic information. We have all become familiar with buzz words such as *The Information Super Highway* and the Internet.

This revolution in electronic information was a key factor in the deliberations of the Joint Funding Councils' Libraries Review Group. Chaired by Professor Sir Brian Follett (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick), this Group was established to review the future needs of academic libraries.

Many of the recommendations of the final Follett Report related to ways in which information technology in an electronic library can help libraries cope better with the increasing demands on services.

As a direct response to the Follett report the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) established the Electronic Libraries Programme (eLib). The Programme has a budget of about £15 million over 3 years, and its objectives include the use of IT to improve delivery of information through increased use of electronic library services, to allow academic libraries to cope better with growth, to explore different models of intellectual property management, and to encourage new methods of scholarly publishing.

JISC has set up a steering committee to oversee the Electronic Libraries Programme, known as the Follett Implementation Group for Information Technology (FIGIT). FIGIT identified several programme areas, and called for expressions of interest in 1994.

Over 350 expressions of interest were received. To date about 40 projects have been funded, although there has been a dialogue, and the projects are often significantly different from the original expressions of interest. Some projects have been funded in conjunction with JISC's Information Services Sub-Committee (ISSC).

Information on the funded projects is available through the information server at UKOLN. The URL is:

http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/elib

Electronic document and article delivery

Libraries are being forced by rising prices and budget limits to cancel journals and restrict their purchase of new journal titles. In these circumstances, improved services to obtain copies of articles are vital.

FIGIT is funding a Document Delivery programme, which tests various electronic options. There will be a near term service-oriented project *LAMDA*, based on existing technologies, and some software development for improved document delivery based on both paper (*EDDIS* and *SEREN*) and electronic source documents (*InfoBike*).

Electronic journals

The heart of the library funding crisis centres around the journal price spiral, where cancellations force rising prices, which trigger further cancellations. The vision of electronic journals offers the possibility of a way out of this spiral, as delivery cost is much less volume sensitive than for paper journals. But more important is the fact that electronic journals offer new, rich capabilities far beyond those possible with paper.

The greatest number of expressions of interest were for parallel publishing projects, and several major projects in this area will be taken up. An example is the CLIC consortium's work on the Royal Society of Chemistry's journal *Communications*. Many projects have extensive involvement from publishers, especially *SuperJournals*, a project working with a consortium of 21 publishers. Some, like *Open Journal Framework* are basically technology projects, working with publishers. Other major projects capitalise on features only possible through electronic media, and involving novel use of the network. One of these is *Internet Archaeology*, another *Sociological Research On-line*.

The main gap identified is the wider exploitation of informal communications across the network, such as pre-print archives.

Digitisation

Many metres of library shelving are filled with long back runs of journals, of great historical interest but relatively infrequently accessed. The Follett report suggested digitising some of these - this would save space and give improved access, as the contents of these ancient journals are often poorly indexed. There may also be advantages in digitising backruns of more recent journals for which there may be significant demand, if the needed copyright permissions can be obtained.

Before any final decisions were taken FIGIT commissioned a study by Marc Fresko to minimise any chance of duplication of work being undertaken elsewhere. The report of this study is available on the UKOLN server (see URL above). Two projects have been funded so far; the first is the *Internet Library of Early Journals*, digitising 20 year runs of journals such as the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the *Builder* and *Notes and Queries* from the 18th and 19th centuries. The second deals with more modern materials, *Core Journals in Art and Design*. These are apparently very liable to be mutilated or stolen. Copyright is a serious issue for these journals, as they are relatively modern (post-war).

On demand publishing

High teaching loads in some subjects result in enormous demands on libraries for a limited range of material needed by many students at the same time. Libraries cannot afford enough copies to satisfy the demand with normal loan patterns, and have to put copies in short loan collections, a time-consuming and frustrating business for all. On-demand publishing allows selections of material to be compiled from electronic sources, and printed off on demand, with payment of appropriate royalties.

FIGIT has funded 7 projects from university consortia exploring different aspects of this area. Initially they will be limited to mainly technological aids in the production of course packs, sold to students in print on paper form, but later more will explore electronic delivery in various forms. A perceived weakness is support for fully flexible electronic versions of short loan collections, or electronic reserves, as the Americans call them.

Training and awareness

This is an absolutely critical programme area. Many library staff do not feel well equipped to cope with the changes in technology which surround them. The Electronic Libraries Programme will provide a boost to the technological demands, and must also address the considerable organisational change, and the needs of librarians for new or enhanced skills that follows the introduction of new technology.

FIGIT believes that a coordinated training programme will provide the best method of addressing the communities skill development needs. There will be a quick boost of skills provided by *Netskills* (based at the University of Newcastle), the largest eLib project. *EduLib* will provide support for librarians in their role in teaching others about the technology. In addition there are a number of cultural change projects.

Few expressions of interest related to awareness, but there will be a newsletter (*ARIADNE*) developed in both print and electronic forms.

Access to network resources

The main outcomes envisaged in this programme area are to raise awareness of quality networked information resources, to explore the issues associated with running large scale services, and to ensure community involvement in developments at national and international levels. This area is being developed in conjunction with ISSC.

FIGIT and ISSC are funding projects in two phases. The first phase (*ROADS*) concentrates on the design and implementation of a user-oriented resource discovery system which would provide the technical framework, while the second phase will build in the links to the community by providing gateways to facilitate access for the HE and research community to specific subject based information. There are 6 subject gateways identified for funding so far, art, design and media; engineering; history; medicine; and social sciences, with the conflict studies server being rather different in providing information rather than just selecting and pointing to it.

Supporting studies

This programme area covers a wide range of studies and projects which together will help define issues in more detail, set parameters for other work, and carry out a range of other tasks. Much of the work is being carried out in conjunction with ISSC. Some of the areas being explored include archiving (a workshop in October) and preservation of electronic information for the long term (a workshop in late November). Three projects have been funded: *FIDDO* looking at decision making between document delivery and subscriptions, an IMPEL follow-up project looking at cultural change, and support has been agreed for *MODELS*, UKOLN's investigation of some architectural implications of the electronic library.

Several other recommendations in the Follett report are being pursued as supporting studies and activities. These include:

Retrospective conversion

A review has been carried out to determine what (if any) retrospective conversion capital programme would be in the community interest. The report which recommends spending £25 million (unlikely to be available?) goes to FIG shortly.

CURL

The Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL) has agreed to develop their database to provide an OPAC which will be available nationally with a related document delivery service. Hosting of this service will be carried out by Manchester.

Arts and Humanities data service

The Arts and Humanities data service centre has now been identified as Kings College, London, and individual services are now being selected.

Images

Several proposals involved the digitisation, storage and transmission of images which, although outside the main FIGIT programme, are being considered further as part of a joint FIGIT/ISSC study. After revision, the report will shortly

be made available for wide consultation in the community.

Copyright

Copyright is clearly a key issue for FIGIT. The issues involved are international and contact has already been made with relevant US organisations. A study is to be started shortly on some technical aspects of copyright management, economic and pricing models, authentication, security and other aspects of commercial operations.

Follett lectures

A national programme of lectures on electronic library issues by national and international experts has been established. Summaries (and in some cases transcripts) of the lectures are available on the UKOLN server.

Follett Implementation Group (FIG)

Implementation of the broad set of proposals arising from the Follett Report is overseen by FIG. It is chaired by Professor Sir Brian Follett, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick. The most visible aspect of this work in years to come may be the library building programmes which the funding councils have undertaken as a result of the report. In addition, there has been a programme of non-formula funding of certain

specialised collections, an investigation into the needs of libraries in support of research, and an investigation into performance indicators. Some closely related work includes a pilot programme of national site licences for journals. The current focus of FIG's work is moving towards developing an appropriate UK higher education stance on copyright issues in the electronic age.

Next steps

The response received so far has been impressive, and there is certainly the basis of a coherent programme to further the development of the electronic library. However, a great deal remains to be done. The next step will be a small, targeted further call probably seeking proposals in electronic support for pre-prints and grey literature, quality assurance and refereeing in an electronic environment, and electronic reserve or short loan collections.

FIGIT will then work on whether further extensions to the eLib programme can be justified, which may involve bids for further funding. A major aspect of these further extensions would likely be integration of these and other projects and technologies into a working electronic library.

The eLib information packs will be updated and are expected to be released in November.

Annex A

FIGIT Electronic Libraries Programme (eLib)

Programme Area/ Title of project Electronic Document Delivery	Lead Institution/ Contact	Brief Description/ Phone/fax/email
Electronic Document Delivery -The Integrated Solution (EDDIS)	University of East Anglia Dr David Baker	To produce an integrated end user driven identification, holdings discovery, ordering and electronic supply service for document delivery phone: 01603 592434 fax: 01603 259490 email: D.Baker@uea.ac.uk
Sharing of Educational Resources in an Electronic Network in Wales (SEREN)	University of Wales, Bangor Dr Ian Lovecy	A geographically based Document Delivery service by a consortium of libraries in an all-Wales context phone: 01248 382960 fax: 01248 383826 email: I.C.Lovecy@bangor.ac.uk
Electronic Document Delivery in London and Manchester (LAMDA)	University College, London Mr Fred Friend	A document delivery service for journal articles to the 21 HEFCE funded libraries in the London area and the five CALIM libraries in Manchester phone: 0171 380 7090 fax: 0171 380 7373 email: ucylfjf@ucl.ac.uk
InfoBike	University of Bath Mr Barry Smethurst	Services which allow users to have browsing and reading access to a large range of documents in electronic form for which their institutions have paid licence fees phone: 01225 826273 fax: 01225 826176 email: B.Smethurst@bath.ac.uk

Programme Area/ Title of project Digitisation	Lead Institution Contact	Brief Description Phone/fax/email
Internet Library of Early Journals	Oxford University Dr Peter Leggate	To provide expanded access to a realistic sample of 18th and 19th century journals, including *Gentleman's Magazine, Notes and Queries* and *The Builder.* phone: 01865 272820 fax: 01865 272821 email: Leggate@vax.ox.ac.uk
Digitisation of core journals in Design and the Applied Arts	London Institute Pat Batley	A digitised record of key journals in art and design; the outcomes will include an easily searchable CD-ROM. phone: 0171 514 6500 ext. 6599 fax: 0171 514 6597 email: Pat.Batley@caxton.lond-inst.ac.uk

Programme Area/ Title of project Electronic Journals	Lead Institution Contact	Brief Description Phone/fax/email
The CLIC project	Imperial College Dr Henry Rzepa	A parallel electronic version of an established journal - *Chemical Communications* phone: 0171 594 5774 fax: 0171 594 5804 email: rzepa@ic.ac.uk
Internet Archaeology: an international electronic journal for archaeology	Council for British Archaeology (with the University of York) Dr Michael Heyworth	An international electronic journal for archaeology phone: 01904 671417 fax: 01904 671384 email: m.heyworth@bbcnc.org.uk
The SuperJournals project	Nature (through Universities of Manchester and Loughborough Dr David Pullinger	An extension of original SuperJournals project (which was funded by British Library) to develop and test an infrastructure and tools for refereed electronic journal publishing phone: 0171 8334000 fax: 0171 8334766 email: D.Pullinger@nature.com
Electronic Seminars in History and *Reviews in History*	Inst. Historical Research (with the School of Advanced Studies (University of London) Dr Steven Smith	The Institute's seminar programme in an electronic form and to produce a new electronic journal available to all HE institutions phone: 0171 636 0272 fax: 0171 4362183 email: s.smith@sas.ac.uk
The Interactive Electronic Magazine	London Guildhall University James Wisdom	An interactive magazine with an associated archive (database) to support library staff, educational developers and computing staff concerned with the innovative design and delivery of courses phone: 0171 3201096 fax: 0171 3201096 email: J_WISDOM@tvax.lgu.ac.uk
An electronic journal environment for law: *journal in legal informatics*	Warwick University Dr Abdul Paliwala	An internationally refereed journal dealing with substantive law implications of IT and implications of IT for legal practice and legal education phone: 01203 523090 fax: 01203 524105 email: ctilaw@warwick.ac.uk
An open journal framework: The integration of electronic journals with networked information resources	Southampton University Prof. Wendy Hall	To investigate novel ways of integrating journals that are available electronically over the network with other journals and information resources using the capabilities of open hypermedia systems phone: 01703 592388 fax: 01703 592865 email: wh@ecs.soton.ac.uk

Programme Area/ Title of project Electronic Journals continued...	Lead Institution Contact	Brief Description Phone/fax/email
Sociological Research Online	British Sociological Association (with the University of Surrey) Prof. G. Nigel Gilbert	The development of an electronic journal in Sociology using multimedia delivery formats and the provision of training to enable users to maximise their use of the journal phone: 01483 259173 fax: 01483 306290 email: Nigel.Gilbert@soc.surrey.ac.uk
Electronic support for Scholarly Communication	Imperial College Prof. Dov Gabbay	Software tools to support an electronic community, initially in the area of Logic and Theoretical Computer Science. phone: 0171 594 8205 fax: 0171 5818024 email: dmg@doc.ic.ac.uk
Learned Societies Support Service	Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (with Queen's University, Belfast) Prof. Bernard Donovan	To define the parameters required for the use of electronic networks by smaller learned society publishers phone: 0181 6580459 fax: 0181 6633583 email: Donovan@alpsp.demon.co.uk
Parallel Publishing for Transactions (PPT)	The Institute of British Geographers in association with Queen Mary and Westfield College Roger Lee	Parallel publishing of a scholarly journal (Transactions) preserving page fidelity, complex diagrams and exploring personalised cross-referencing. phone: 0171 9755410 fax: 0171 9755500 email: R.Lee@qmw.ac.uk

Programme Area/ Title of project Supporting Studies	Lead Institution Contact	Brief Description Phone/fax/email
Focused investigation of document delivery options (FIDDO)	Loughborough University of Technology Dr Anne Morris	Analysis of document delivery models, evaluation of impact on library policies and operations, and impact on end users. phone: 01509 223073 fax: 01509 223053 email: A.Morris@lut.ac.uk
Monitoring Organisational and Cultural Change (MOCC)	University of Northumbria Professor Joan Day	A survey of the different stages in the development of electronic libraries and the key factors contributing to their effective management. phone: 0191 2273702 fax: 0191 2274572 email: Joan.Day@unn.ac.uk
MODELS	UKOLN Mr Lorcan Dempsey	An applications framework which will enable the effective management of collections of information resources and services phone: 01225 826254 fax: 01225 826229 email: L.Dempsey@bath.ac.uk

Programme Area/ Title of project On Demand Publishing	Lead Institution Contact	Brief Description Phone/fax/email
The Secure Student Access Project	Nottingham Trent University Mrs Liz Lines	To improve the availability of recommended reading to students by developing and promoting simple, flexible licensing arrangements for multiple student access to materials stored electronically phone: 0115 9418418 fax: 0115 9415380 email: LIB3LINESE@nottingham-trent.ac.uk
Inter-Institutional Networking of Learning Materials	University of East London Anne Kropholler	A demonstrator project for the delivery of on-demand publishing to HE students and staff which makes use of materials produced by the Open Learning Foundation phone: 0181 5907722 fax: 0181 8493504 email: A.Kropholler@uel.ac.uk
Project Phoenix: On Demand Publishing in the Electronic Libraries Programme	South Bank University Catherine Hurst	A project concerned with the implementation of electronic storage and print techniques to supply text to students phone: 0171 815 7844 fax: 0171 815 6699 email: litc@vax.sbu.ac.uk
On Demand Publishing in the Humanities	Liverpool John Moores University Phil Sykes	A pilot on demand publishing project aimed at students in the School of Media, Critical and Creative Arts phone: 0151 2313147 fax: 0151 7071307 email: P.SYKES@liverpool-john-moores.ac.uk
Scottish On Demand Publishing Enterprise (SCOPE)	Stirling University Mrs Carolyn Rowlinson	A project to build an electronic resource bank of articles and book chapters in key areas to demonstrate copyright clearance and logistical issues of course reader publishing and on line viewing phone: 01786 467228 fax: 01786 466866 email: cagr1@stirling.ac.uk
Electronic Readings in Management Studies (ERIMS)	University of Oxford, Templeton College Dr Gerd Islei	A project to provide reading materials in electronic form to a cross section of users in management studies phone: 01865 735422 fax: 01865 736374 email: ISLEI_G@templeton.oxford.ac.uk
EUROTEXT - A Collaborative Resource Bank of Learning Materials on Europe	Hull University Dr Richard Heseltine	A national electronic resource bank of learning materials relating to the European Union phone: 01482 465436 fax: 01482 466205 email: R.G.Heseltine@lib.hull.ac.uk

Programme Area/ Title of project Training and Awareness	Lead Institution Contact	Brief Description Phone/fax/email
Educational Development for Higher Education Library Staff	Hull University Dr David McNamara	A national programme to identify and provide the skills needed by librarians in fulfilling the training roles identified in the Follett report phone: 01482 465565 fax: 01482 465406 email: D.R.Mcnamara@educ.hull.ac.uk
Network Skills Training for Users of the Electronic Library (Netskills)	Newcastle University Jill Foster	A project to provide a comprehensive national network skills training programme aimed at shifting the culture within HEIs towards awareness and widespread use of networked information resources Phone: 0191 222 8250 Fax: 0191 222 8580 Email: Jill.Foster@newcastle.ac.uk
Transfer of Network Information Skills	University of Central England Prof. Judith Elkin	A project aimed at improving the quality of academic teaching and research by enhancing the expertise of academic staff in the appropriate exploitation of networked information resources phone: 0121 3315626 fax: 0121 3315675 email: J.Elkin@uce.ac.uk
Networked Learner Support	University of Sheffield Prof. Tom Wilson	Create a framework for professional development and training to enable library professionals to acquire the knowledge and skills to successfully develop networked learner support in a wide range of institutions. phone: 0114 276 8555 ext. 5080 fax: 0114 278 0300 email: T.D.Wilson@sheffield.ac.uk
Ariadne	University of Abertay Dundee John MacColl	A monthly newsletter in parallel print and electronic form dealing with Internet resources and services in general and the eLib programme in particular. phone: 01382 308899 fax: 01382 308880 email: J.A.MacColl@abertay-dundee.ac.uk
Study of Librarian Skills	University of Plymouth Mr Ivan Sidgreaves	Identification and evaluation of the impact of IT on the knowledge and skill base requirements of library staff in HE phone: 01752 232006 fax: 01752 232011 email: I.Sidgreaves@plymouth.ac.uk