Issue one: February 2016

Key developments

This is the first quarterly digest of news about Jisc’s work in open access (OA). It’s part of an overhaul of the way we communicate our OA work that includes a new web presence, webinars, screencasts and a series of guides on OA topics.

January 2016 marks the start of the Dutch presidency of the European Commission (EC). It’s good news for OA as the Dutch are highlighting open science and there will be various events and policy initiatives. We’re engaging on behalf of UK universities, for example by gathering support through our Knowledge Exchange partnership for international action to sustain key OA services.

In the UK, the main news is the implementation of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) OA policy from April. We’ve got a range of products available now, with more to come, to help universities handle this development, and you can find out more about them in this digest and on the website. We’re also aware that the UK government is looking again at how metrics might contribute to the REF, and is considering some far-reaching organisational changes in the higher education landscape, and we’ll be quick to respond to this very dynamic environment.

The latest OA good practice update is now available, rounding up pathfinder projects developments and outputs that support effective OA implementation.

Policy compliance

Helping you to meet and demonstrate compliance with the range of different funders’ and publishers’ requirements

» The new HEFCE-funded web service SHERPA REF is currently undergoing final testing and a beta version will be available in February. Building on the current portfolio of SHERPA services, it helps authors and institutions ascertain quickly and accurately whether a journal complies with the REF policy, supporting them to meet the new OA requirements of the post-2014 REF.

» Institutions can now register their interest in signing up for publications router, which helps institutions to populate their repositories and CRISs with research papers written by their academics. The initial development of an entirely new version will be ready in February and is summarised on our blog. If your institution is interested in joining the service, please contact us.

» PASTEUR4OA promotes the development and reinforcement of OA policies and strategies at national, institutional and funder levels that align with the EC’s recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information and the OA mandate for Horizon 2020. The project has developed a range of advocacy resources.

Cost management

Support with improving your processes and systems; and providing shared services, in order to save costs

» Jisc Monitor is continuing to run workshops and webinars with 23 participating pilot institutions to inform the development of Monitor Local and Monitor UK ahead of their release, which will be in three phases from February to July 2016.

» Analysis of institutions’ reactions to the publisher off-setting schemes negotiated by Jisc Collections found that, while substantial savings could be achieved by using the offers, more support was needed to help institutions navigate and understand the complexities of the different schemes. As a result, a workshop is being offered which will explain the deals in detail.

To find out more about our OA services email oasupport@jisc.ac.uk or visit our website jisc.ac.uk/content/open-access
**Discovery, usage and impact**
Supporting you to improve the visibility of your repository and demonstrate the reach and impact of your research

- 95 repositories have now joined IRUS-UK. This represents over two thirds of eligible institutional repositories, something that significantly increases opportunities for benchmarking at a national level. Case studies outlining use of the service by participating institutions are now available on the IRUS website.

- We’re working with the Open University to deliver the UK CORE aggregation as a jointly run service. One of these services will be a dashboard for repository and research managers to manage their content in CORE and also provide business intelligence.

- ORCID’s global researcher identifier solution will greatly assist the discovery of UK research and tracking of its use and impact. In December 2015, Research Councils UK (RCUK) joined our ORCID national consortium. It joins 55 universities that have become members since the consortium launched in summer 2015.

- Dedicated community and technical support will be provided for members that sign up for our ORCID consortium membership. Additional support is being commissioned and will start in February 2016.

- OAPEN UK’s five year study into OA monograph publishing in the humanities and social sciences has released its final report. It makes a series of recommendations that have three core principles at their heart: plurality, partnerships and pellucidity. Read more in our overview blog.

**Metadata and interoperability**
Helping you to overcome interoperability issues between funder, publisher and institutional systems

- The new REF compliance checker plugin for EPrints is now available. Its purpose is to smooth the process by which institutions using EPrints can establish whether an article or conference proceeding deposited by a member of their organisation is eligible for the post-2014 REF. More information is available on our blog.

- As part of the investigating OA monograph services project along with OAPEN, we will be releasing two guides: ‘Publisher information’ contains best-practice guidelines for OA book publishers and focuses on improving the transparency of information provided on publishing processes, peer review and licensing policies; ‘Metadata for OA monographs’ is a metadata model to support discoverability of OA books. Both guides will be presented at Digifest in March.

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**Key dates - 2016**

**March**
- 2–3 Various sessions on OA: Digifest, Birmingham
- 31 Publisher off-setting workshop, London

**April**
- 11–13 Jisc session on OA services: UKSG conference, Bournemouth

**May**
- 5 Jisc OA digest – issue 2
- 17–18 PASTEUR4OA conference, Amsterdam

**June**
- 6–8 Jisc session on OA services: ARMA conference, Birmingham
- 13–16 OR2016 conference, Dublin

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