**Jisc Monitor suite – local open access tracking with UK-wide benefits**

Completing in June 2015, and with inputs from over 60 UK institutions, the Jisc Monitor pilot project examined how institutions (and the broader supply chain) might support and track open access (OA) publication processes, especially compliance and costs monitoring.

Based on responses to the pilot, we have committed to developing two related applications within its OA offer, to be released in summer 2016. The applications with the working titles ‘Monitor Local’ and ‘Monitor UK’ are described here together with details of how to get involved.

**Monitor Local**

Monitor Local will enable institutions to record and report on data relating to the publication of open access outputs by their academics, including both ‘Gold’ and ‘Green’ publication routes. The range of coverage and the flexibility offered will meet the needs of differing institutions:

- **Any phase of publication** – choose whether to track from first contact with an author, from selection of publication route, or pick up at the point of acceptance
- **Any type of output** – whilst journal articles are a priority, tracking other types of output will be important, ranging from conference proceedings and book chapters to digital assets and physical artefacts
- **Any level of detail** – some will want to manage compliance and costs in detail with a full audit trail (e.g., including projected and actual costs), whilst others will simply record the current status and the final cost
- **Any author** – for the future, Monitor hopes its GUIDE service will help institutions identify and track publications involving their academics but where the corresponding author is elsewhere.

The Monitor business case recognises that institutions are addressing the same problem in a variety of ways – in complex spreadsheets, by tailoring generic systems (such as a CRM), by building their own solution, or by working with suppliers to add to current research information systems (CRIS) and repository functionality. There is however a view that these channels may lack the agility or the focus to address the specifics of the UK requirements during the critical evolutionary period to 2020.

The benefits offered by Monitor Local include a UK specific focus, saving time and covering gaps in expertise; for example, by automation of data collection and validation wherever possible, especially for publication record enhancement and compliance checking.

The Monitor Local application will be compliant with open standards for data exchange (like the RIOXX profile) and will exploit data freely available from global and UK services – such as CORE, CrossRef, ‘How Open Is It?’ and SHERPA, potentially using Publications Router and SHARE for event driven notifications.

For more information visit [our blog](#)

**Monitor UK**

Monitor UK is a shared application aggregating and presenting data analytics, thus enabling institutions and funders to evaluate UK cost and compliance data relating to the ‘Gold’ route. This will provide business intelligence not otherwise available, which can be sliced up by publisher and institution and filtered by date range in an easy to use web interface.

The benefits will be of interest in a number of contexts

- **Institutions** – to compare and benchmark such as pricing and volumes for Gold OA with other institutions or against national averages; to assess publishers based on both price and actual compliance
- **Jisc Collections** – to identify anomalies in terms of pricing and compliance; to trace potential double dipping based on subscription data in KB+; as a result to inform UK negotiations with publishers
- **Funders** – to understand the national picture and the direction of travel over time regarding open access mandates and thereby to inform policy review

Participating institutions are able to supply data from a variety of alternative sources, depending on their local practices and systems:

- **From Monitor Local** – all the data required can be collected in Monitor Local and, with approval, can automatically update Monitor UK
- **From an alternative system** – a few UK institutions have developed their own systems or tailored other applications to manage this data and can transfer it periodically to Monitor UK in a simple file format
- **From a spreadsheet** – at present, the vast majority of UK institutions use spreadsheets to track costs and record compliance and can therefore update Monitor UK periodically using a simple file format

The Monitor UK application will be compliant with established profiles for data exchange (notably RIOXX) and will map incoming data to standard names (notably publishers and funders). The application will run in the cloud with appropriate security. For more information, take a look at the [early aggregation prototype](#).

**Pilot participation**

The Monitor Local and UK Aggregation services will continue to be developed in close collaboration with a pilot group of institutions from December 2015, leading to a full service available to all Jisc member institutions in 2016.

We hope that the pilot group will include a representative range of institutions in terms of both mission type and size, ranging from those with large numbers of APCs to others who wish to track a smaller portfolio of predominantly Green research outputs.

Your involvement can vary according to interests and time available and so we propose three Pilot Tiers as follows:

**Tier one – Review**

- Participate in workshops and webinars to shape Monitor workflows and integration with other services
- Benefit from sharing of ideas and dialogue to test and enhance your local plans

**Tier two – Evaluate ... as per tier one plus**

- Access the demo platform to assess and comment on either / both systems based on a test data set
- Contribute to specification of reports and exports

**Tier three – Trial ... as per tier two plus**

- Use a secure Monitor Local institution account to build up real institutional data with option to transfer it to the full service and / or
- Use data from other institutional applications to populate the UK aggregation via spreadsheet or API

We also welcome the involvement of publishers, other upstream services (eg, providers of acceptance and other publication notifications) and funders, both in the tier one and tier two activities and also through specific collaborations over data interactions.

In all cases, it is emphasised that the pilot activities need to assume a level of commitment from the outset of the pilot. It will not be feasible to backtrack the dialogue to bring on newcomers if we are to maximise the value of the committed group. However there will be progress webinars for those not directly involved in the pilot and we also envisage a second wave of institutions engaging from the Beta release stage.
If you are interested in joining this vital initiative, please contact frank.manista@jisc.ac.uk by 11 November. A webinar is scheduled for 3 November to outline plans for the Jisc Monitor Local and UK Aggregation services. We will explain the scope of activity, the timeline and the range of opportunities for institutional participation prior to service release in summer 2016. This will assist you in deciding whether to become a pilot institution.

A kick off workshop is planned for Thursday 19 November and we are already aware of intention to participate from a number of institutions, as well as a collaboration commitment from the Hull pathfinder (HHuLOA) good practice project (Huddersfield, Hull, Lincoln).

Find out more
The Jisc scholarly communications blog details the final phase of Monitor pilot activity
Keep up to date with key Monitor pilot phase outcomes