“Everyone’s short of time so you need something that works and is reliable. And that’s what Jisc-provided resources do.”

Gary Smith
e-learning and information resources coordinator
Strode College

Strode College’s Jisc subscription for 2018/19 will be £5,926 plus VAT, 9% of which (£538) covers digital resources, negotiations, resource management, library and discovery tools.

A study by an independent consultant found that if Jisc didn’t exist, Strode College would need to pay £122,300 for these services.
I also teach on the graphic design A level course and on the BTEC business course. Everyone’s time is limited and it saves time having a resource you can trust that’s easy to use. Our students find JSTOR an absolutely invaluable resource. It’s easy to get in and out of with Shibboleth single sign on. The resources help them to research in a seamless way. With some of the databases the students use from other providers it can be very difficult for them to get in and out, there are lots of technical issues, there are sometimes issues with finding the right information and how it’s presented. JSTOR and the History Study Centre are very easy to access and the students have never had any complaints about what they find there.

If we didn’t have these resources we would be using Google and Wikipedia and spending a lot more time filtering out the rubbish, trying to hone down the results into something useful. JSTOR does not have those issues in anywhere near the same way. You need something that works and is reliable. And that’s what it is.

On a day to day basis we get our internet access from Jisc and we do most of our work online, researching resources for our students. We wouldn’t be able to live without Jisc, it’s as simple as that. We use Janet txt to bring books back in our library system so if any books are overdue we send texts out. It’s the most effective way of getting our books back, without a doubt. So our stock is better because we can send that text out through Janet txt.

We couldn’t operate without the services Jisc provides – that’s quite apparent. For value for money and good service, Jisc is the winner.

Case study
Strode College

The Business and Art tutor’s story

I’m Gary Smith and I’m the e-learning and resources information coordinator at Strode College in Somerset, which means that I run the team of library staff and look after the technology in the college library.