Jisc Library Hub Community Advisory Board

Summary of meeting 9th February 2022

Classification: Open

The recently launched Jisc/OCLC National Metadata agreement was discussed. Jisc needs support from libraries for this transitional agreement to enable development of a sustainable metadata landscape. Members wanted to know about mechanisms for negotiating prices in this first phase and reassurances about prices in year two of the agreement. Collaboration with OCLC aims to bring strategic benefits to the sector in areas like shared entity infrastructure, linked data, and decolonising collections (equality, diversity, and inclusion).

Product updates were provided to members. The National Bibliographic Knowledgebase now has over 180 contributors. Promotion of collections creates engagement for both Jisc and member institutions. Manchester Metropolitan University and the Institute of Structural Engineers are the latest new libraries now contributing. The product team working on promoting collections through features and social media which draws engagement from followers.

Diversity and Inclusion initiatives at members’ institutions were outlined. National Art Library policies mirror those of the wider Victoria and Albert Museum: for example, consistent language and content warnings for potentially offensive images or language. The British Library has a 3-year plan relating to staffing, collections, and metadata ethics. Activity includes auditing catalogues and identifying offensive terms to change or remove. The University of Leeds reports building on work done at Imperial on reading lists and monograph authors. Other members reported early stages of work in this area. Library hub analysis of data could contribute to better understanding of the issues and priorities for action, in the longer term. This is also a potential area for future collaboration with OCLC.

A National approach to print monograph storage and preservation was discussed: Library hub is a potential key infrastructure to support this. RLUK Collection Strategy Network have been asked to provide recommendations to RLUK Board, but there is potential relevance for the wider sector. The British Library are involved in discussions and the Library hub team are keen to contribute to discussions at the right time.

An update on the Library Hub Analyse co-design project was provided. Interviews are currently ongoing with a range of institutions to identify common problems which could be addressed by a Library Hub Analyse service. A potential service would focus on metadata quality review and upgrade.

The Board discussed community ILL infrastructure. The British Library and SCONUL are discussing community ILL ownership in the face of commercial operators. There is potential for NBK data to contribute to infrastructure. The Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance are in discussion about Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) and are reviewing legal obstacles. Jisc is interested in participating in those discussions as part of the wider discussion around community resource-sharing.