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## JISC and digital libraries in the UK

### Keynote Item

**Original citation:**

Originally presented at JCDL2008, 18 June 2008, Pittsburgh, US.

This version available at: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/25606/>

Available in LSE Research Online: November 2009

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# JISC and digital libraries in the UK



Library

British Library of Political  
and Economic Science

Jean Sykes

Librarian and Director of IT Services,  
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# JISC – Joint Information Systems Committee

- “Supporting education and research by promoting innovation in new technologies and by the central support of ICT services”
- Started in 1993 with HE, then added FE in 1999
- Now also providing services to post-16 education
- “Joint” because funded by the four UK countries

# JISC – Services: [www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)

- JANET – a world-class network
- Access to electronic resources
- New environments for learning, teaching and research
- Guidance on institutional change
- Advisory and consultancy services
- Strong partnerships with Library and IT directors in the field

# My relationship with JISC

- Member over the years of several key JISC Committees
- Chair of JISC Digitisation Advisory Group –overseeing £22m programme
- Member of UK Research Information Network Advisory Board
- Director of UK Research Data Service Feasibility Project
- Director of several JISC-funded projects

# Long-term sustainability of digital content

- JISC Collections
- JISC digitisation programme
- JISC digital repositories programme
- JISC e-Books project
- JISC preservation programmes
- UK Research Data Service

# JISC Collections: [www.jisc-collections.ac.uk](http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk)

- “Delivering affordable, relevant and sustainable online content”
- Free and subscription-based online resources such as e-journals, e-books, full text databases, digital images and film, geospatial data
- Quality evaluation and expert negotiation, national licensing
- Saving the UK £mm on e-content



# JISC digitisation programme:

[www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/)

- 6 large-scale projects 2004-08
- 16 further large projects 2007-09
- Total so far: £22 million
- Just announced: a further short programme of £2m (for smaller projects)
- Projects are building an impressive collection of UK heritage online



# JISC digitisation programme

- 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> C newspapers (BL)
- 18<sup>th</sup> C parliamentary papers
- 19<sup>th</sup> C historical pamphlets
- 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> C medical journals
- Welsh and Irish resources
- Population statistics and cabinet papers
- Sound archives (BL) and radio news
- Newsfilm, cartoons, theatre archive, art, Shakespeare quartos, Polar images, UK theses, maps, World War 1 poetry

# JISC digital repositories programme: [www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/)

- £14m investment in HE repository and digital content infrastructure 2006-09, building on 2005-07 start
- To include cross-searching across UK
- Further refinement of standards
- New software and tools for use and preservation of repositories
- Pilot implementations and models for resource discovery and preservation shared infrastructure

# JISC e-Books project: [www.jiscebooksproject.org](http://www.jiscebooksproject.org)

- Unique project to test viability of textbook digitisation 2007-09
- Partnership with publishers - £600k
- 4 subjects chosen, 36 book titles
- £600k paid by JISC to publishers
- 2 million users of JISC services get these e-Books free
- Evaluation to include possible future business models

# JISC preservation programmes: [www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/)

- A number of strands since 2000
- Working in partnership, including with Library of Congress and NSF
- Creation of Digital Curation Centre
- Seeking clearer definitions of roles
- Developing tools and best practice models
- Life cycle analysis and costing for e-literature

# UK Research Data Service: [www.ukrds.ac.uk](http://www.ukrds.ac.uk)

- Feasibility study financed by HEFCE and JISC: £255k
- Is a UK framework for *managing* research data feasible and how much will it cost?
- Future unsustainable if left to individual universities
- Use existing good practice and create shared service UK-wide
- Report due December 2008

# Sustainability – who pays?

- JISC investment creates the digital content
- Licences for use – with commercial and not-for-profit publishers
- Subscriptions for the HE/FE community – often subsidised
- Partnerships can spread the cost
- Other communities can pay full cost for access