Jean Sykes

JISC and digital libraries in the UK

Keynote Item

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JISC and digital libraries in the UK

Jean Sykes
Librarian and Director of IT Services, London School of Economics
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

- 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
“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/

• 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

- 17th-19th C newspapers (BL)
- 18th C parliamentary papers
- 19th C historical pamphlets
- 19th and 20th 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/

• £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

- 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/

- 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
• 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