

JISC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

IESR Progress Report

February - July 2006

Project

Project Acronym	IESR	Project ID	
Project Title	Information Environment Service Registry		
Start Date	1 March 2005 (current phase)	End Date	31 July 2006
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Partner Institutions	UKOLN, University of Liverpool		
Project Web URL	http://www.iesr.ac.uk		
Programme Name (and number)	<i>Shared Service Programme</i>		
Programme Manager	Philip Vaughan		

Document

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1.0		AH
2.0	27/7/06	Incorporating additional information from AA and LM
3.0	2/8/06	Information from TK and JH

IESR Progress Report, July 2006

Overview of Project

1. Grant Statement

I confirm that the project development is being conducted under the terms agreed in the initial contract with JISC.

2. Aims and Objectives

There have been no changes to the overall aims and objectives outlined in the Phase III project plan. These were the following:

- a) Software development
- b) Content and metadata
- c) Research
- d) Evaluation
- e) Promotion and dissemination

3. Overall Approach

There have not been any changes to the overall approach of the project.

4. Project Outputs

Software development

The IESR Editor was updated in light of comments received at the Contributors' Workshop in January.

An administration interface for the management of contributors, including initial registration of new contributors, has been developed and is now available for use by the IESR team. Also an interface for contributors to register their own details has been implemented.

A web page containing a simple list of IESR entities with pointers to their records within the database is generated by the IESR update process. This enables indexing of IESR content by major web search engines such as Google.

The Z-target Checker was updated to include details of the owners of the services.

The OCKHAM software was installed at Liverpool, but the versions tested were not fully usable. Version 1.0 of the software was not released until 12 July 2006, too late to be tested by the Liverpool team in this phase of the project. A report of the process will be made available in the project members' area of the IESR website.

Dissemination

Ann Apps gave a presentation about IESR at the 'Integrating Services – Integrating Standards' workshop at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague on 3 March. Pete Johnston also attended this workshop. A report of the workshop, which included some input from Ann Apps, was published in D-Lib Magazine in May 2006 (<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may06/vanveen/05vanveen.html>).

Rachel Heery and Pete Johnston led a session on service registries at the British Library/JISC Digital Library Services conference, 6-7 March, during which Ann Apps gave a presentation about IESR. Amanda Hill and Traugott Koch also attended this workshop.

Ann Apps and Amanda Hill gave a presentation about IESR at the Digital Library Service Registry meeting in Washington D.C., 23-24 March, which was also attended by Traugott Koch.

Amanda Hill gave a presentation and took part in a discussion session at the JISC Repositories Programme meeting in Warwick, 27-28 March. Additional IESR participants in this meeting were Rachel Heery, Emma Tonkin, Pete Johnston and Traugott Koch.

Ann Apps attended the ELPUB2006 (<http://www.elpub.net>) conference held in the Hotel Katerino, Razlog, near Bansko, Bulgaria on 14-16 June 2006. She presented a paper about IESR, which is published in the conference proceedings: Disseminating Service Registry Records (<http://epub.mimas.ac.uk/papers/elpub2006/apps-elpub2006.html>). This paper focuses particularly on the support for, and use of, OAI-PMH by IESR.

On 25 July Amanda Hill gave a talk about IESR as part of a one-day meeting called 'Collection Descriptions & Cultural Portals', organised by MLA West Midlands in Wolverhampton.

A double-sided A5 flyer has been created, promoting the IESR for contributors on one side, and for potential users on the other.

Research

Issues related to distributed registries have been further investigated, including the identification of relevant projects and registries. Some of the topics covered have been discussed at the session on "Services and Collection Registries" at the BL/JISC/UKOLN event "The Digital Library and its Services", held in London on 7 March 2006 and prepared and organised by UKOLN, and also at the workshop on Digital Libraries Service Registries, organised by NSF/NSDL in Washington D.C., 22-23 March 2006. Both of these events had international participation.

Investigations about existing OAI registries and subject indexing/retrieval of registry entries have been carried out.

Work has been done on the potential mapping between IESR and UDDI, including identifying the functions to be supported, writing out the details of four mapping options and analysing how each option supports the functions required.

Metadata

There have been no changes to the metadata during this reporting period.

Data Creation

New Content Creation Guidelines have been created, and information for each IESR element has been linked from a ‘help’ option on the appropriate page of the *IESR Editor* (the data creation and editing interface).

A Cataloguing Policy has also been developed for values of IESR properties, building on the experience of creating data for MIMAS descriptions and on established cataloguing standards.

A form has been made available from the ‘Be Included’ page of the IESR, for use by individuals who would like to include their resources in the service.

The original data supplied by MIMAS is being checked and updated by staff at MIMAS. It is planned that this work will be complete by the end of August 2006.

The other initial data contributors have also been contacted and encouraged to check their descriptions.

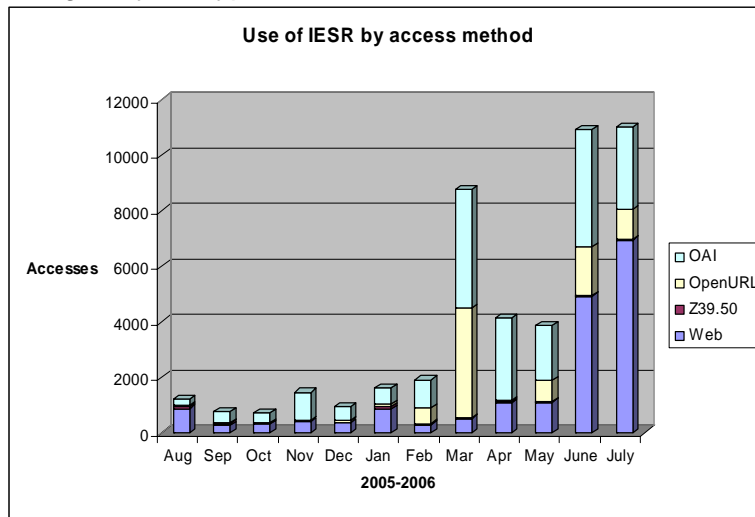
A suggestion for the inclusion of a particular service has been received from the PERX project. The IESR has also been approached by its first external prospective contributor (Carl Demereye from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium).

Evaluation

CERLIM produced a report of their evaluation of the IESR, which was circulated among members of the project and JISC. The main findings of the evaluation were that the IESR had been broadly successful as a demonstrator project and the evaluators recommended further investment to “build a robust, user-facing demonstrator service based upon current functionality”. Levels of awareness of the registry were found to be low, with CERLIM recommending “the creation and wide dissemination of use cases, scenarios and working examples to demonstrate the potential advantages of the approach to the broader professional community”. The evaluators also expressed some concern about subject searching but recognised that this function might require the use of an external service.

Use

The graph below shows the usage levels of the IESR for each month of the 2005-2006 academic year, arranged by the type of technical access method to the service.



5. Project Outcomes

A number of meetings and discussions were held with potential users of the IESR and other stakeholders:

- 14/2/06 Meeting with MIMAS SHIMMER project to discuss extending the IESR metadata to include Shibboleth attribute acceptance policies
- 15/2/06 Ann Apps attended a workshop in Oxford as part of the JISC RIVER project investigating version requirements within institutional repositories
- 14/3/06 Ann Apps supplied information by email, about the use of Purl-based Object Identifiers (POIs) by IESR, to Chris Awre for his Linking Repositories study.
- 27/3/06 Meeting with Roddy McLeod at the JISC Repositories Programme meeting in Warwick, discussing the construction of a demonstrator portal which would use IESR.
- 18/4/06 Ann Apps supplied information by email, about the IESR to Dublin Core mapping, to Peter Krenesky of the OCKHAM project.
- 22/5/06 Telephone conversation with Bill Hubbard of the OpenDOAR registry about future interoperability between IESR and OpenDOAR.
- 9/6/06 Ann Apps was took part in a telephone interview by Rosemary Russell of UKOLN about IESR. This was part of the JISC Shared Services Synthesis report, which was also the subject of the workshop listed below.
- 23/6/06 Ann Apps attended a workshop in London as part of the JISC Eprints Application Profile project, and made later comments on this profile.
- 27/6/06 Ann Apps sent comments by email to Susanna Mornati (CILEA, Italy) about a Draft report of the European infrastructure for Repositories of Scientific Information Workshop (held in Brussels in June), specifically about service registries. This request from Susanna for comments followed the presentation about IESR at ELPUB2006.
- 29/6/06 Herbert Van De Sompel contacted Ann Apps as a consequence of her presentation at ELPUB2006, to ask about using the IESR metadata for a service registry for the aDORe repository at the Research Library of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (<http://african.lanl.gov/aDORe/projects/adoreArchive/index.html>).
- 29/6/06 Ann Apps and Amanda Hill attended a meeting in London to discuss shared services as part of JISC's review of shared services activities.
- 7/7/06 Meeting with Adrian Burton of the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (www.apsr.edu.au) regarding their possible use of IESR metadata for a collection description service for APSR members (and possible full service registry)

6. Stakeholder Analysis

With the availability of a data creation interface in the Editor, contact is now being made with existing contributors to ensure that the descriptions within the IESR are up to date.

There has been a considerable amount of contact in these six months with individuals involved with building other registries. As a consequence of this, the membership of the IESR-OCKHAM list at JISCmail has been expanded to include representatives of these other registries.

7. Risk Analysis

No new risks have been identified.

8. Standards

There have been no large scale changes in the standards to be used.

9. Technical Development

The development approach remains unchanged.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

All IESR records carry the same Creative Commons licence.

Project Resources

11. Project Partners

The project partners remain the same.

12. Project Management

Pete Johnston left UKOLN during this phase of the project.

13. Programme Support

Philip Vaughan attended the project team meeting on 10 March and provided feedback on the proposal for the future funding of the IESR. This proposal was approved by the JISC IIE committee in May 2006.

14. Budget

The budget for the current phase of the project is broadly on target: the underspend from the previous phase will be carried forward to the next.

Detailed Project Planning

15. Workpackages

The tasks scheduled for this reporting period are listed below.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Task Name</i>	<i>Complete?</i>
1	Project Management	
1.2	Manage and co-ordinate project activities	Ongoing
1.3	Monitor progress	Ongoing
1.4	Reporting	Yes
1.5	Liaise with related services and content providers	Ongoing
2	Metadata	
2.3	XML schemas	Ongoing
2.4	Further metadata review	Deferred until next phase
3	Software Development	
3.2	Data Entry Interface	Yes

3.3	Web services	Deferred until next phase
3.4	Enable ingest of IESR XML records	Deferred until next phase
3.5	Alerting service for new records	Deferred until next phase
3.6	Redesign architecture	Ongoing
3.7	Maintenance	Ongoing
4 External software development		
4.4	OCKHAM prototype	Version 1.0 of Ockham software released 12/7/06
4.5	OCKHAM node report	Yes
5 Content development		
5.1	Data checking	Ongoing
5.2	Data creation guidelines	Ongoing
5.3	Contacting contributors	Ongoing
6 User liaison		
6.1	Liaise with users	Ongoing
6.2	Test the IESR	Ongoing
6.3	Provide support for users	Ongoing
7 Research into semantic web and other initiatives		
7.2	Research	Ongoing
7.3	Monitoring	Ongoing
8 Dissemination		
8.1	Maintain website	Ongoing
8.2	Write articles	Ongoing
8.3	Presentations	Ongoing
8.4	Contributors' workshop	Yes

16. Evaluation Plan

CERLIM have reported on their evaluation of the IESR, as described above in section 4.

17. Quality Assurance Plan

New and updated data created using the IESR Editor is automatically checked as part of the editing process. In addition, the IESR Content Manager manually checks data against the IESR Application Profile and the Cataloguing Policy, contacting data contributors as necessary to ensure data quality.

The Z39.50 targets described within the registry are automatically checked once a week by the Z-target Checker software. The Content Manager then contacts the service providers if there are any problems with the targets.

18. Dissemination Plan

The list below details the plans for future promotion of the IESR.

- A planned presentation by Ann Apps about IESR at a JISC Repositories / eResearch workshop has been deferred. The Workshop was expected to be held at Lancaster

University on 6 June 2006, but was cancelled and will now be held on September 6-7.

- 'Exposing electronic resources through the Information Environment Service Registry', by Amanda Hill, presentation at Internet Librarian International, 17 October 2006.

19. Sustainability Plan

A proposal for the future development of IESR was submitted to the JISC Integrated Information Environment Committee in May and accepted.

This will allow the registry to become a 'service in development' over the next three years and will help to embed the IESR within the JISC's Information Environment.

Appendix A