

JISC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

IESR Progress Report

February - July 2005

Project

Project Acronym	IESR	Project ID	
Project Title	Information Environment Service Registry		
Start Date	1 Mar 2005 (current phase)	End Date	31 Jul 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>		
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Document

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IESR Progress Report, January 2005

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, although there is an increasing awareness of issues surrounding the interaction of IESR with other service registries, which may have an impact on future development.

4. Project Outputs

Software development

- An OAI-PMH interface to the IESR was released on 27 May 2005. This service supplies descriptions of IESR services, collections or agents in either simple Dublin Core or full IESR XML. Use of the service is logged for the IESR's monthly statistics.
- An OpenURL Link-To Resolver service has also been developed, that can be used to retrieve single entity records in IESR XML by their identifier. The use of this service is also being logged.
- The IESR identifiers are constructed as PURL object identifiers (POI). A redirect has been established so that the identifiers resolve to the XML description of each IESR entity, using the OpenURL resolver service (for example <http://purl.org/poi/iesr.ac.uk/1084445955-14535> is redirected to http://iesr.ac.uk/service/ourllinkto?url_ver=Z39.88-2004&url_ctx_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:ctx&rft_id=http://purl.org/poi/iesr.ac.uk/1084445955-14535).
- An IESR metadata review is currently under way.

Dissemination

On 4 March a joint meeting was held in Manchester with members of the US-based OCKHAM project team. Presentations were given by both groups, and discussions took place about how to further joint progress. One outcome of this meeting was a proposal to the CNI (Coalition for Networked Information) Spring Task Force meeting for a joint presentation about the two registry approaches. Ann Apps and Amanda Hill travelled to Washington to give this presentation on 6 April.

Ann Apps gave a talk about the IESR entitled 'A Middleware Registry for the Discovery of Collections and Services' at NCESS2005: The First International Conference on e-Social Science, which was held in Manchester between 22 and 24 June 2005. The paper is available at http://www.ncess.ac.uk/events/conference/programme/papers/ncess2005_paper_Apps.pdf.

Amanda Hill gave an overview talk about the IESR at the JISC Joint Programmes Meeting on 7 July.

UKOLN organised a Distributed Registries workshop at the University of Warwick, 14-15 July. Several members of the IESR project team attended the meeting, with representatives of the e-science community and a number of representatives of other organisations from around the world who had an interest in registries. The first day of the meeting comprised a series of presentations, including one on the IESR (<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/dsr-workshop-2005/programme.html>).

5. Project Outcomes

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

- Meeting with OCKHAM team, Manchester (05/03/05)
- Ann Apps attended the IEMSR workshop in Bath (15/03/04)
- Katie Anstock, in relation to use of the IESR by TALIS (16/03/05)
- Phill Purdy, Ian Ibbotson and Kate Fernie, regarding service registry alignment between IESR, the People's Network Discovery Service and Project Michael (19/04/05)
- Ann Apps attended the Creative Commons workshop run by Intrallect in London (17/06/05)

6. Stakeholder Analysis

Contact with stakeholders and potential users of the IESR has continued, as described in 5.

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 underlying software platform, Cheshire II, and the development approach remain unchanged. Tasks in the current phase include testing a Cheshire 3.0 implementation of the IESR. The new OAI-PMH and OpenURL interfaces are written in C++. The architecture redesign will migrate existing code to C++ as well as establishing a modular design for the Registry.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

The Creative Commons licence which is applied to all data within the IESR has been updated to the version developed for English and Welsh law: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/uk/>. A machine-readable version of this licence has been embedded in all the IESR web pages, including the web interface to the application.

Project Resources

11. Project Partners

The project partners remain the same.

12. Project Management

Traugott Koch has taken over the UKOLN research role.

Detailed Project Planning

15. Workpackages

The tasks scheduled for this reporting period are listed below. The remaining task from the previous phase – the Z39.50 availability checking service - has now been completed.

Number	Task Name	Complete
1	Project Management	
1.1	Formulate project work plan	Yes
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
1.6	Liaise with external evaluators	Ongoing
2	Metadata	
2.1	Review metadata	Progressing
2.2	Change control procedures	Ongoing
2.3	XML schemas	Ongoing
3	Software Development	

3.1	OAI-PMH interface	Yes
3.2	Data entry service	Progressing
3.6	Redesign architecture	Ongoing
3.6	Maintenance	Ongoing
4 External software development		
4.4	OCKHAM prototype	Awaiting release of latest OCKHAM software
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		
7.1	UDDI report	Progressing
7.2	Research	Ongoing
7.3	Monitoring	Ongoing
8 Dissemination		
8.1	Maintain website	Ongoing
8.2	Write articles	Ongoing
8.3	Presentations	Ongoing

16. Evaluation Plan

CERLIM have been selected to undertake the evaluation of the IESR. This work will begin in August 2005 and be completed by January 2006.

17. Quality Assurance Plan

All existing IESR data has been checked for compliance with the data creation guidelines, and a draft list of recommendations has been drawn up.

The UK Mirror Service service descriptions have been checked, as a number of locations have changed since the transfer of the service to Eduserve.

The OAI-PMH interface was submitted to OAI for verification and was assessed as valid and robust.

18. Dissemination Plan

The list below details the dissemination activities of the project team in this reporting period and plans for future promotion of the IESR.

- Introduction to the IESR, by Amanda Hill and Ann Apps. An introductory presentation on the IESR given by Amanda Hill and Ann Apps at the CNI Spring 2005 Task Force Meeting, Washington, 5 April 2005.
- Apps, Ann. (2005). The JISC Information Environment Service Registry. In: ASSIGNation 22(3) pp 9-11 (ISSN 0265-2587, April 2005). A preprint version is available at: <http://epub.mimas.ac.uk/papers/assign2005/iesr-assign-2005.html>.
- Apps, Ann and MacIntyre, Ross. (2005). [Emerging Uses for the OpenURL Framework](#). In: Dobрева, M., Engelen, J. (eds): *ELPUB2005: Proceedings of the Ninth ICC International Conference on Electronic Publishing - From Author to Reader, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 8-10 June 2005* (Peeters Publishing Leuven) pp 283-289, ISBN 90-429-1645-1. Presented at the conference by Ann Apps. This paper mentions the use of OpenURL in the IESR
- Apps, Ann. (2005). A Middleware Registry for the Discovery of Collections and Services. Presented at: NCESS2005: The First International Conference on e-Social Science, Manchester, UK, 22-24 June 2005 by Ann Apps. A preprint version is available at: <http://epub.mimas.ac.uk/papers/ncess2005/apps-ncess2005.html>.
- IESR and SPP: building and using a shared service, a presentation at the JISC Joint Programme Meeting, Cambridge, 7 July 2005
- JISC Information Environment Service Registry (IESR), presentations by Amanda Hill, Pete Johnston and Ann Apps at the Distributed Services Registry Workshop (<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/dsr-workshop-2005/>)
- Ann Apps has been invited to speak about the IESR at a NISO workshop on OpenURL and Metasearch in Washington, D.C. in September 2005.

19. Sustainability Plan

Part of the evaluation work package will be looking at recommendations for the future sustainability of the IESR.

