

JISC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

IESR Progress Report

August 2006 - January 2007

Project

Project Acronym	IESR	Project ID	
Project Title	Information Environment Service Registry		
Start Date	1 August 2006 (current phase)	End Date	31 July 2009
Lead Institution	University of Manchester		
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Partner Institutions	UKOLN (on a consultancy basis)		
Project Web URL	http://iesr.ac.uk		
Programme Name (and number)	<i>Shared Service Programme</i>		
Programme Manager	Philip Vaughan		

Document

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IESR Progress Report, January 2007

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 Web Search and Browse interfaces have been recoded in a mainstream programming language (C++) so that they are consistent with the rest of the IESR application software. This recoding also included some improvements to the functionality.

Dissemination

Ann Apps gave a presentation about IESR at a workshop about Digital Repositories, e-Research and Portals at Lancaster University Centre for e-Science in September 2006. There is a report of this event on the IESR website.

Ann Apps attended DC2006 (The International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications) in Manzanillo, Mexico in October 2006, where she gave a presentation about IESR at the DCMI (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative) Collection Description Working Group meeting. She also presented and published a conference paper that makes mention of IESR (since deposited in the E-LIS repository). There is a report of this event on the IESR website.

Amanda Hill gave a presentation entitled 'Exposing electronic resources through the Information Environment Service Registry', at the Internet Librarian International Conference

on 17 October 2006. As a result of this presentation, she was asked to write an article for the CILIP publication 'Library + Information Update'.

A presentation (adapted from the 17 October one) was given to a meeting of the Strategic e-Content Alliance on 18 October.

Details of IESR Service metadata were sent to the OpenURL listserv in August 2006, as part of a discussion about describing services.

Details of IESR metadata, in particular Service metadata, were sent to the DCMI Tools Community Group in October 2006, to assist their development of a tools / services application profile.

A new web-based “easy how-to” guide for contributors has been created: “[5 Step Guide to Creating Content for the IESR](#)”.

The IESR A5 flyer has been updated. This is used to promote the IESR to contributors on one side, and to potential users on the other.

In December the IESR established a Service Registries Blog. This is to share information about service registry activity, within the IESR and also other registry projects. The blog can be found at <http://iesr.ac.uk/service-registries-blog/>.

Research

Ann Apps had some email discussion in August 2006 with Xiaoming Liu from the aDORe project at Los Alamos Library, US, about their intended use of the IESR metadata schema, indicating a requirement to generalise the schema for wider use.

Ann Apps has become Moderator of the DCMI Collection Description Community Group, and is a member of the DCMI Collection Description Application Profile Task Group.

Ann Apps and Amanda Hill took part in discussions about the OCKHAM / NSDL (US National Science Digital Library) Registry Experiment, possible use of the registry by various projects funded by NSDL, and possible IESR involvement. This workshop was held in Seattle, USA, in January 2007. A report has been written for the IESR website. An entry on the Service Registries Blog discusses some ideas raised at the meeting for a ‘low level’ service registry.

Metadata

The schema for describing connection details for webcgi services now uses the standard WSDL format. The connection details for Z39.50 and SRU/W services have been updated to ZeeRex version 2.0. All data has been updated accordingly.

Data Creation

Potential contributors were contacted by way of an email to a number of relevant mailing lists. 12 new contributing organisations have registered and 7 of these have created records so far.

The IESR Contributors email list has been refreshed. Contributors are added as they register. The list enables communication with, and between, IESR data contributors.

The initial contributors from the pilot phase have all been contacted regarding their records. AHDS have submitted a proposal to JISC for funding to create ~800-900 collection records.

The bulk of MIMAS content has been updated. This involved liaising with service support staff and a fair amount of cataloguing work by the IESR Content Manager.

New records have been quality assured as they are added. Results of this and issues raised are fed back to the contributors in order for changes to be made to the records. Dewey subject terms have been created for records that do not have them.

The Content Creation Guidelines have been updated to address issues raised by contributors.

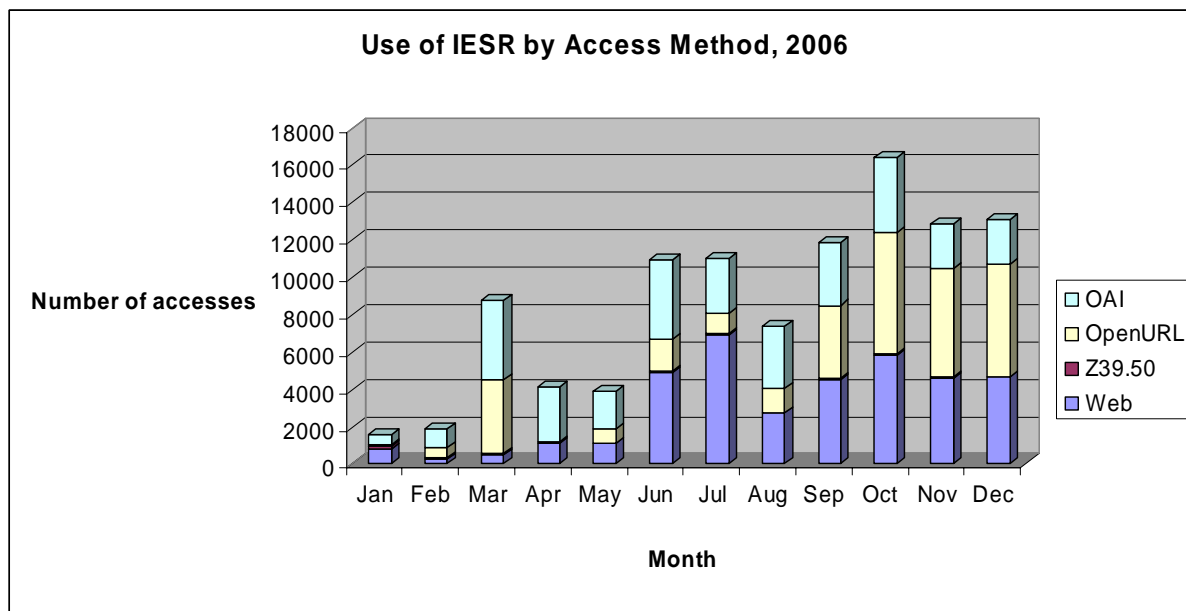
The IESR Content Quality Assurance procedure has been documented.

A reminder system has been set up to prompt contributors to check their records at periodic intervals. Contributors set the interval when they register.

A new area on the website has been created for contributors: [Contributors' Corner](#). This brings together the IESR Editor, Content Creation Guidelines, Cataloguing Policy and general information about indexing.

Use

The graph below shows the usage levels of the IESR for 2006, arranged by the type of technical access method to the service.



Ann Apps responded to the PerX Project's report about their experimental use of IESR in October 2006. These comments are available on the PerX website attached to their report.

A set of IESR Use Cases and a comprehensive set of Use Scenarios have been developed and were made available from the IESR website in November 2006. The existence of these Use Cases has been disseminated widely.

5. Project Outcomes and 6. Stakeholder Analysis

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

Amanda Hill attended a meeting about sharing data between IESR and the Michael project, at MLA, on 31 October 2006.

On 1 November members of the IESR team had a meeting with Vicky Wiseman and Claire Honeybourne from the NHS National Library of Health to discuss using IESR to describe National Library of Health resources. Ann Apps had some email discussion with Claire, in January 2007, about how NLH records might be used.

Amanda Hill was interviewed by John Robertson and Mahendra Mahey on 8 January 2007 as part of a review of registries which describe open access repositories. Follow-up questions on the IESR's OAI-PMH interface and technical dependencies were addressed to Ann Apps via email and answered by her.

Ann Apps and Amanda Hill attended a meeting organised by the OCKHAM initiative in Seattle on 17-18 January. This was called to discuss possible use of the registries by some of the projects funded by the National Science Digital Library in the US.

Ann Apps liaised with UKOLN to provide details of DCMI activities, including IESR's metadata's use of Dublin Core, as part of the UK DCMI Affiliate membership. She updated various entries in the JISC Standards Catalogue maintained by UKOLN, including those for IESR metadata and Z39.88 (OpenURL).

Ann Apps is a member of the Z39.88 (OpenURL) Maintenance Agency Advisory Committee (and also of the Review Panel). She attended a telephone meeting in November 2006 and a face-to-face meeting in Seattle, USA, in January 2007.

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 lead institution remains the University of Manchester, with UKOLN now providing its activities on a consultancy basis.

12. Project Management

Traugott Koch left UKOLN during this phase of the project. As yet, no-one has been identified to take over the UKOLN area of work for IESR.

13. Programme Support

14. Budget

The budget for the current phase of the project is broadly on target. Please see Appendix A.

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>
WP1 Project management		
1	Write project plan	Yes
2	Organise project meetings and monitor project progress against plan	Ongoing
3	Produce biannual progress reports	Yes
WP2 Software development		
4	Maintain registry software	Ongoing
5	Extend Data Editor to support future requirements	Ongoing
6	Enhance software to support future requirements of stakeholders	Ongoing
7	Develop interfaces for ingest of XML data and import of data from other applications	Ongoing
8	Implement SRU and SRW interfaces	Ongoing
WP3 Metadata maintenance		
14	Updating the metadata to incorporate stakeholder requests, for example to support other domains	Ongoing
15	Changing the schema to keep it in line with international and standards developments	Ongoing
WP4 Ensuring the contribution of data		
16	Maintaining and developing data creation guidelines and cataloguing policy	Ongoing
17	Maintaining and developing quality assurance procedures involving manual and automated checks of data	Ongoing
18	Promoting advantages of inclusion to potential	Ongoing

contributors

WP5 Promoting use of IESR

19	Developing use cases to show possible uses of IESR within the Information Environment	Yes (and ongoing)
20	Helping to develop demonstrator applications, e.g. with JISC's IE Test Bed	Ongoing
21	Providing technical support for developers wanting to use the IESR	Ongoing
22	Providing guidelines for users of the IESR	Ongoing

WP6 Research into related initiatives

23	Defining a service registry in terms of workflow and services, within the context of the e-Framework	Ongoing
24	Exploring the enhancement of subject indexing to allow finer granularity for topical collection description	Ongoing
25	Continued collaboration with OCKHAM and other related initiatives, including technical interaction when required	Ongoing
26	Attending events, meetings and workshops related to service registries across different domains and internationally	Ongoing
27	Maintaining a watch on related activities, such as semantic web and e-Science domains, with regular updates	Ongoing

WP7 Dissemination

28	Maintain web site	Ongoing
29	Publish articles and present conference papers	Ongoing
30	Run workshops	Ongoing
31	Present IESR to potential users and contributors	Ongoing

16. Evaluation Plan

It is planned to have an evaluation of the current phase in 2009.

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.

18. Dissemination Plan

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

- Article for the CILIP publication 'Library and Information Update'

19. Sustainability Plan

The IESR is now in a 'Service in Development' phase.

