

# focus on UKOLN

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## e-Research and Digital Libraries - on the Road

[Liz Lyon](#)

UKOLN Director, Liz Lyon, has been actively promoting synergies between digital libraries and e-Research via a series of invited international conference presentations including those at the DEFF *Building the Information Grid* event (Copenhagen), the OAI4 meeting at CERN Geneva, euroCRIS (Research Information Systems Strategic Seminar in Brussels), an e-Science Forum organised by the German government in Berlin, the *3rd European Conference on Research Infrastructures* in Nottingham and the *8th International Bielefeld Conference* in Germany. The presentations brought together UKOLN activities in several areas including Digital Curation Centre work, eBank project progress and other relevant digital library initiatives. These meetings offer the chance to disseminate UK activity to a wider audience, but also to influence the strategic direction of key European players. This is particularly timely given the current emphasis on open access to research outputs including datasets, but also in the light of the planning stage for future EU FP7 programmes.

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## Ariadne Celebrates a Significant Birthday

[Richard Waller](#)

*Ariadne* Web Magazine has marked its 10th anniversary with a special issue reflecting on the major developments that have occurred during its lifetime on the Web. In January 1996, when e-publications of any description were few and far between, the Magazine took to the Web from UKOLN's offices at the University of Bath as well as producing a print version from the University of Abertay Dundee, the better to disseminate the work of the newly formed eLib Programme. The decennial issue, no. 46, has received articles from, among others, founding members of the Programme who have offered their views on not only eLib's achievements but also what they see as important for *Ariadne's* community in future years. Peter Brophy, Reg Carr, Lorcan Dempsey, Derek Law, Clifford Lynch, John MacColl, Charles Oppenheim and Chris Rusbridge have contributed on topics as varied as the experience of the UK academic sector in turning digital library projects into sustainable services; the development of a user-centred approach in academic libraries; changes in the digital library environment since 1996; the open access agenda for the next 10 years; how the emergence of e-Research has changed thinking about the future of research libraries on both sides of the Atlantic; reactions to the tools Google is currently rolling out; a history of computerised information retrieval systems and a debate on the assumptions behind current digital preservation thinking.



**Further Information:**

Ariadne Web Magazine

<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## Getting the Message Across

[Ann Chapman](#)

The National Information Forum awards in October 2005 was the occasion for further recognition of Revealweb, which received a Getting the Message Across Award. The selection panel was impressed by the innovatory aspect of the service, the fact that it is free and the sheer scale of the resource.



The awards, which were presented by NIF's President, Ram Gidoomal CBE, acknowledge excellence and imagination in the provision of information to disabled people and others severely disadvantaged by lack of appropriate information. Revealweb continues to expand its database; the site, which is fully accessible for independent use by visually impaired people, now has 113,096 titles listed and 113 organisations on the register of suppliers. It enables users to find resources in their format of choice and information on where to obtain items. UKOLN supports Revealweb by providing advice on bibliographic issues to the Revealweb Database Management Group and through membership of the Policy Advisory Group.

**Further Information:**

Revealweb:

<http://www.revealweb.org.uk/>

National Information Forum Awards 2005

<http://nif.org.uk/awards2005.htm>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## Conference on Long-term Data Preservation

[Alex Ball](#)

In November 2005, UKOLN representatives attended the DCC-hosted conference Ensuring Long-term Preservation and Adding Value to Scientific and Technical Data (PV 2005) at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. A whole range of topics was covered, from appropriate techniques for formatting and packaging data, through publication of chemical data, to running large-scale data repositories. Also explored were the possibilities for data mining afforded by advances in standardisation and repository interoperability. Attending this event gave a good feel for the hottest topics in digital preservation at the moment - currently the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model and data provenance. It also provided some concrete illustrations of common preservation issues, such as the relative (de)merits of analogue and digital storage media, the need for adequate metadata, and the practical issues associated with developing standards. PV 2007 will be held at the DLR site at Oberpfaffenhofen near Munich in the week beginning 8 October 2007.

**Further Information:**

Ensuring Long-term Preservation and Adding Value to Scientific and Technical Data (PV 2005)

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/pv-2005/>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## JISC IE Metadata Schema Registry Work with TEL

[Rachel Heery](#)

There is a growing number of metadata schema registry initiatives within Europe and internationally. The JISC IE Metadata Schema Registry Project is in discussion with The European Library (TEL) about its requirements for a registry. TEL is providing a search infrastructure across various European national library collections and a metadata schema registry could play a role in managing the evolution of the metadata they use. UKOLN will participate in collaborative work on exploring requirements and development of a registry to support European national libraries. UKOLN presented possible areas for collaboration at a recent joint DELOS/TEL workshop in Paris.

**Further Information:**

JISC IE Metadata Schema Registry

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/iemsr/>

The European Library

<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## JISC State-of-the-Art Review of Terminology Services

[Traugott Koch](#)

JISC has commissioned a state-of-the-art review of terminology services and technology, including current and emerging requirements, to be undertaken by UKOLN and the University of Glamorgan (as a named sub-contractor). The study will run until June 2006. Terminology work supported by JISC will be carried forward in the context of a strategy for shared infrastructure services underpinning resource discovery. The ultimate aim of the study is to inform the JISC strategy on how to move forward with terminology services, building on progress in the HILT and geoXwalk projects. It has emerged that it might be attractive to support a finer granularity of terminology services, with some widely applicable services maintained by JISC and more specifically focused services being offered by different communities (e.g. public sector bodies, research communities and professional societies).

### Further information:

JISC Terminology Services Workshop

<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue39/terminologies-rpt/>

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## Andy Powell Moves On

[Sally Lewis](#)

Andy worked as Assistant Director and Team Leader of Distributed Systems and Services at UKOLN since joining in 1996 from the University of Bath's Computing Service. Within UKOLN Andy was responsible for overseeing all technical development and made significant contributions to the technical input of UKOLN's research and development activity. Recently his two main roles were as advisor to the JISC on the technical architecture of the JISC Information Environment and as Systems and Interoperability Manager for the JISC-funded Resource Discovery Network (RDN). Andy has been active in the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative for a number of years and is a member of the DC Advisory Board and the DC Usage Board. He has also been a member of the Open Archives Initiative Technical Committee. Throughout his time at UKOLN, Andy continued to take an active interest in the provision of university computing, library and e-learning-related services through membership of the University of Bath Information Services Committee. Whilst at UKOLN, Andy created DC-dot, a Web-based tool for generating, editing and reformatting Dublin Core metadata, DC-assist, a Dublin Core help utility, OpenResolver, an OpenURL resolver demonstrator and RSS-xpress, a tool for creating RSS feeds. We wish Andy well as he embarks on his new position as Head of Development at the Eduserv Foundation.

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## Long-term Preservation of E-mail Messages

[Maureen Pennock](#)

Millions of e-mails are sent and received each day. Although many of these are unwarranted or have only short-term value, hidden within are often e-mails of enduring value and worth. Alongside historical and cultural significance, messages may have administrative, legal, and recordkeeping value that warrants their preservation for the long term. This is a significant challenge. Problems are not just technical, but also contextual, organisational, and cultural. How can we preserve e-mail message files and attachments? How will we recognise people with nonidentifying e-mail addresses such as 'gjtom43@fsnet.co.uk' if they don't sign their e-mails properly? Which mails must be preserved? How can we integrate them into a curatorial process and preserve them through time? The DCC will address these issues in a forthcoming series of papers and a workshop on curating e-mail over 24-25 April 2006 in Newcastle.

### Further Information:

E-mail Curation: Practical Approaches for Long-term Preservation and Access

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/ec-2006/>

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## Immortal Information Project Underway

[Alex Ball](#)



Work has now started on 'Immortal Information and Through-Life Knowledge Management (KIM)', the Grand Challenge project in which UKOLN is a partner. The aim of the project is to develop tools and strategies for engineering firms moving from a product-delivery to a product-service way of working. UKOLN's focus for the project is on the long-term curation of digital engineering data, enabling the reuse and modification of product designs and manufacturing processes throughout a product-service's lifecycle. UKOLN has also been involved from the outset with developing filename and metadata conventions for all project documents. Work began in October 2005 culminating in a project meeting this January held by the lead partner,

the University of Bath Department of Mechanical Engineering. Literature reviews and pilot case studies will be completed by Easter and the research programme finalised by July 2006.

#### Further Information:

Main project Web site

<http://www-edc.eng.cam.ac.uk/kim/>

UKOLN project Web page

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/blue-challenge/>

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## Immaculate Catalogues

[Ann Chapman](#)



UKOLN is organising Immaculate Catalogues, the CILIP Cataloguing and Indexing Group (CIG) 2006 conference to be held at the University of East Anglia, 13 - 15 September 2006. Open to members of the Group and other interested library and information professionals, the conference will focus on taxonomy, metadata and resource discovery. A varied programme of presentations is planned, together with the annual Cataloguing and Indexing Standards Forum, which will brief delegates on the latest developments in AACR2/RDA, MARC 21, and other metadata standards. These will be complemented by opportunities to network with fellow professionals as well as the annual general meeting of the group. Gudrun Warren, Librarian of Norwich Cathedral, is the speaker at the conference dinner, and the Group is planning visits to one or more sites of professional and historic interest.

#### Further Information:

Cataloguing and Indexing Group Conference 2006

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/CIG-2006/>

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## Digital Curation Conference Heads North

[Bridget Robinson](#)

UKOLN organised the 1st International Digital Curation Conference in Bath. The DCC has now announced that following this successful first conference, the 2nd International Digital Curation Conference will be held in the City Centre Hilton, Glasgow, 21-22 November 2006.

The conference will explore the topic of Digital Data Curation in Practice. The closing date for submissions is 3 April 2006. In addition to peer-reviewed papers, the DCC is delighted to announce that keynote speeches will be made by Dr Hans F Hoffmann, CMS Team Leader, CERN, and Clifford Lynch, Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI). There will be a civic drinks reception and conference dinner at the City Chambers on 21 November 2006. For further information visit the Digital Curation Centre Web site.



#### Further Information:

Digital Curation: Where Do We Go From Here?" October 2005, *Ariadne* issue 45

<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue45/dcc-1st-rpt/>

2nd International Digital Curation Conference

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2006/>

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2006/call-for-papers/>

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## Forthcoming Events

### WWW 2006 Conference

22 May 2006, Edinburgh, UK

<http://www2006.org/>

### IWMW 2006 Workshop

14-16 June 2006, University of Bath, Bath, UK

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/>

### JISC/CNI Meeting 2006

6-7 July 2006, York, UK

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/jisc-cni-2006/>

### ALT-C 2006: the next generation

5 September 2006, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK

<http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2006/>

**CILIP Cataloguing & Indexing Group Annual Conference 2006**

13-15 September, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/CIG-2006/>**5th UK e-Science All Hands Meeting (AHM 2006)**

18-21 September 2006, Nottingham, UK

<http://www.allhands.org.uk/>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## RDA Drafts Available

Work on Resource Description and Access (RDA), previously the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), is continuing. The draft of Part 1, which provides guidelines and instructions on recording descriptive data, was made available at the end of 2005. The draft of the Part 1 Chapter 3 on recording technical description was issued separately in January. Chapter 3 will be extended later in 2006 with additional material on content and carrier terms which will replace the previous general and specific material designations (GMDs and SMDs). Ann Chapman, UKOLN Policy and Advice, is a member of the CILIP/BL Committee on AACR and will succeed the current chair, Sally Strutt of the British Library, when she steps down in the near future.

**Further Information:**

Draft of Part 1

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rdadraftpt1.html>

Draft of Part 1 Chapter 3

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/docs/5rda-part1-ch3.pdf>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## Web 2.0 - More Attitude than Technology?

[Brian Kelly and Liz Lyon](#)

In recent months we have seen increasing visibility in all things 'Web 2.0' from mash-ups to tagging-fests. UKOLN has attempted to raise awareness of this more social approach to Web development in a number of ways. The topic formed the core of a presentation given by the Director to a group of museums, libraries and archives staff at the final SWMLAC ICT Masterclass. Folksonomies was the subject of a paper published in January's D-Lib Magazine by members of the Interoperability Focus team. In addition, UK Web Focus, Brian Kelly, gave an invited seminar at King's College London in January 2006, which attracted over 100 participants from 30 institutions. Feedback received gave a clear indication of the strong interest in recent developments in what has been described as 'Web 2.0'. Given the reception of the KCL seminar, a repeat (already over-subscribed) will be given in Leeds in March 2006 and the topic will feature in this year's Institutional Web Management Workshop, described elsewhere. One important question to be addressed is how use of Web 2.0 technologies (including use of external services and the user-focused services such as Blogs) relates to existing Web strategies, which typically focus on user discovery, access and publishing requirements.

**Further information:**

Web 2.0: Implications For HE seminar

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/web-focus/events/seminars/leeds-2006-03/>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## Joint DCMI/IEEE LTSC Work on Metadata Interoperability

[Pete Johnston](#)

At the DC-2005 conference held in September in Madrid, a joint activity between the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) and the IEEE Learning Technology Standards Committee (LTSC) was launched with the aim of developing a representation of the metadata elements of the IEEE Learning Object Metadata (LOM) Standard in the Dublin Core Abstract Model. This work will show how metadata conforming to the LOM standard can be expressed in DC metadata descriptions. Currently, it is difficult for implementers to use components of the two standards in combination, and this activity will illustrate how LOM and DC terms may be used together in DC descriptions. It will also contribute to longer-term work on interoperability between the two standards. The work is being conducted by a Task Force involving members of the DC Education Working Group and the IEEE LTSC. The technical editorial team includes Mikael Nilsson (Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm), Andy Powell (Eduserv Foundation), and Pete Johnston (UKOLN).

**Further information:**

Joint DCMI/IEEE LTSC Task Force:

<http://dublincore.org/educationwiki/DCMIIEEELTSCTaskforce>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## Folksonomies: Metadata or Mess?

[Marieke Guy](#)

UKOLN has recently begun to explore the world of distributed classification systems, known informally as folksonomies (see 'New Perspectives on Old Data'). At the Internet Librarian International Conference in October 2005 UKOLN representatives sat on a panel session offering both an introductory perspective and the sceptic's view. More recently an article has been published on the subject in D-Lib Magazine. The commentary piece entitled Tidying up Tags? looks at what makes folksonomies work; it agrees with the premise that tags are no replacement for formal systems, but argues that it is the model of 'supplemental metadata' that is the core quality which makes folksonomy tagging so useful. The article includes a small-scale study of sample data from del.icio.us and flickr that concludes that the usefulness of infrequently used tags may be greater than is often suggested. Social tagging, how it relates to more formal classification systems, and its potential for the education sector are topics for further research and will be one area considered in a terminologies report for JISC to inform future funding.

#### Further information:

Folksonomies: Tidying up Tags?

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january06/guy/01guy.html>

ILI 2005: Folksonomies: Community Metadata?

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/interop-focus/events/ili-2005/>

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## Working in Partnership

[Liz Lyon](#)

One of our principles of working is to collaborate as widely as possible with other leading organisations, networks and professional bodies. This approach is exemplified in our role in leading the Knowledge Extraction and Semantic Interoperability cluster of the DELOS Network of Excellence. This group is currently working on several pieces of work including a state-of-the art study on Digital Repositories which will update the Review carried out with the AHDS in February 2005. Another task is investigating interoperability between multimedia content in digital libraries and e-learning applications, whilst a further task is exploring harmonisation of core ontologies and associated mappings. UKOLN and the DCC have joined with the Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL) to promote the involvement of library staff in assisting researchers in the management of their data outputs. Finally, UKOLN is working closely with the British Library and the JISC in the delivery of a series of Workshops on Digital Libraries which are scheduled to be completed later in the spring.



#### Further information:

DELOS Network of Excellence

<http://www.delos.info/>

The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS)

<http://ahds.ac.uk/>

The Digital Curation Centre

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/>

Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL)

<http://www.curl.ac.uk/>

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## Collections Model Extended

[Ann Chapman](#)

Michael Heaney of Oxford University Library Services has extended his entity-relation model of collections and their catalogues to include modelling of the means by which users obtain access to collections. The result is a new document Users and Information Resources: An Extension of the Analytical Model of Collections and their Catalogues. The extended model introduces a number of additional entities and relationships and enumerates some additional attributes for some of the entities which were present in the original model. The document also includes some illustrative examples of the transactions that occur between entities as users access collections. The work was funded by UKOLN's Collection Description Focus.

#### Further information:

Analytical Model report

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/rsip/model/>

Users and Information Resources report

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/cd-focus/model-ext/intro.html>

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## Digital Libraries and e-Science

[Traugott Koch](#)

The International Journal on Digital Libraries (IJDL), published by Springer, has issued a Call for Papers for a Special Issue on e-Science. Initiatives, which go under a variety of names including e-Science, e-Research, and cyberinfrastructure, are a response to the changing nature of scientific research. Research topics being addressed include information retrieval,

information modelling, ontologies, systems interoperability, and policy issues associated with providing transparent access to complex datasets. The purpose of this special issue is to examine critically the role that digital libraries can and should play in this emerging e-Science computational infrastructure. Bringing the digital library and the emerging scientific infrastructure worlds together can lay the foundation for providing truly integrated support for the entire process of science, from formulation of research questions to the publication of the outcomes. For further information please contact editor Traugott Koch at UKOLN.

**Further Information:**

[http://www.dpc.ucar.edu/projects/IJDL\\_eScience/](http://www.dpc.ucar.edu/projects/IJDL_eScience/)

Contact editor Traugott Koch at: [t.koch@ukoln.ac.uk](mailto:t.koch@ukoln.ac.uk)

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## Institutional Repositories

[Rachel Heery](#)

Deployment of repositories within institutions means many information professionals are facing unfamiliar implementation configuration and policy decisions. Institutional repositories might be considered as digital libraries in miniature, yet whilst many of the information management and technical issues are similar, repositories introduce the potential for significant changes in the workflow of delivering content from author to reader. After all, this is what open access is about. One of the areas of interest within the JISC Digital Repositories Programme is exploring how the user will interact with the emerging network of relatively small (at this stage) content collections. Will this be through search? or through citation linking? These end-user interfaces will rely on a level of interoperability in the way content is managed across the different repository software platforms, as well as on consistent identification of objects within the repositories. The JISC Digital Repositories Support team working across CETIS (Centre for Educational Technology Interoperability Standards) and UKOLN is addressing some of these interoperability issues, initially focusing with UK repository developers on the deposit of content into repositories, and with an international working group looking at a wider range of repository interfaces.

**Further information:**

JISC Digital Repositories Programme

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme\\_digital\\_repositories](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_digital_repositories)

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## JISC Digital Repositories Support Releases Wiki

[Julie Allinson](#)

The remit of the JISC Digital Repositories Support team is varied, and an early achievement has been the creation of the Digital Repositories wiki (DigiRep). On general release since January, DigiRep is a central tool for facilitating communication, discussion and collaboration between the support team and projects. Repositories Programme project staff have been given editing rights within DigiRep, although its contents are freely visible to anyone. Other elements of the Repositories Support work include establishing the scope and nature of the emerging repository landscape, and DigiRep is the primary means for disseminating outputs from this work to the wider community. For fostering repositories-related discussion, the support team has also established a mailing list which has already seen some lively and thought-provoking debate.

**Further information:**

DigiRep

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/repositories/digirep/>

JISC-REPOSITORIES e-mail list

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/JISC-REPOSITORIES.html>

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## Cornucopia Review Completed

[Rosemary Russell](#)

UKOLN's Policy and Advice team has recently completed phase 2 of its strategic review of Cornucopia for MLA. The review was required to support the planned expansion of Cornucopia to cover collections in the library domain. Phase 2 focused on five separate areas: the indexing of names, places, time periods, collection strength and audience. Each report examined Cornucopia requirements and analysed how the current database was being used, which highlighted a number of issues in each case. The phase 1 report which covered subject indexing was delivered in September. A range of possible term sets was assessed and implementations by selected organisations were reviewed. The reports provide recommendations on a way forward, and since the review aims to be practical in nature, examples of how the recommended terms might be applied are included, as well as guidelines for contributors. In order to make relevant results more accessible for contributors, the individual sets of guidelines have been brought together into one document. Current Cornucopia users and potential contributors were consulted throughout the review.

**Further information:**

Cornucopia

<http://www.cornucopia.org.uk/>[Return to contents](#) | [Return to A-Z contents](#)

## New Perspectives on Old Data

[Emma Tonkin](#)

One outcome from the well-received ongoing studies of folksonomies and tagging in UKOLN has been an increasing recognition that the significance of data often changes with time.

This concept has previously been investigated at UKOLN in the context of metadata annotations - additional metadata, usually provided by readers or consumers of that data, but sometimes the original author. The process of tagging, which is a form of classification employing free-text metadata annotation, is expected to reflect these changes in a number of ways. As data ages, different tags will become more applicable. An understanding of how and why this ageing process occurs and the effects that can be expected is clearly useful, not only in the context of tagging, but also in other fields such as digital annotation or the evolution of classification strategies elsewhere.

Certain variables can be identified as useful markers for examining this process, particularly metadata surrounding the creation of the resource and its various annotations, as well as contextual information; this opens up various possibilities, such as the linking of this work to related semantic web techniques and examination of metadata 'ranking' techniques according to the findings of the investigation.

### Further information:

Functionality in Digital Annotation: Imitating and supporting real-world annotation

<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue35/waller/>

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## Web Accessibility, Open Standards and Open Source

[Brian Kelly](#)

Over the past three years UKOLN has worked closely with TechDis in developing a model for addressing e-learning accessibility. Involving other accessibility experts, a more generic model for Web accessibility has been developed. A paper on this work has been accepted by the International Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Web Accessibility (W4A) which will be held in Edinburgh in May, prior to the international WWW 2006 conference. UKOLN has also developed a model for use of open standards to support JISC's development activities. The model recognises the benefits to be gained from open standards, but also acknowledges such use is not always easy. A contextual model has been developed which is well suited for JISC's development programmes. In addition the model can be extended for use with JISC's strategic partners (such as MLA, BECTa, etc). This model was described in a paper presented at the EUNIS 2005 conference in September. The model has recently been extended to embrace best practice in other areas, including the holistic approach to Web accessibility described above. Valuable input from JISC's OSS Watch service has also helped in the extension of the model to include use of open source software. A paper by staff from UKOLN, AHDS, OSS Watch, CETIS and JISC has been accepted for the workshop The E-Government: Barriers and Opportunities also preceding the WWW 2006 conference.

### Further information:

A Contextual Framework For Standards, B. Kelly, A. Dunning, S. Rahtz, P. Hollins and L. Phipps.

To be published in the Proceedings of the Workshop on E-Government: Barriers and Opportunities, Edinburgh, UK, 23 May 2006.

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/web-focus/papers/e-gov-workshop-2006/>

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## NISO Metasearch Initiative Publishes Documents

[Pete Johnston](#)

As reported previously, UKOLN has been contributing to the activity of the NISO Metasearch Initiative activity, which brought together librarians, content providers and library system providers to develop common approaches in some of the areas associated with 'metasearching' - the provision of services that offer the user the ability to search a range of heterogeneous resources from a single interface. In Autumn 2005, the three task groups published a set of reports and recommendations, including:

- an evaluation and ranking of authentication methods
- a metadata schema for collection-level description
- a metadata schema for the description of information retrieval services
- the Metasearch XML Gateway (MXG) query protocol, based on SRU and CQL
- a metadata schema for the description of result sets
- a schema that defines a minimum set of elements required for citation data

UKOLN contributed to work on the collection-level description schema.

### Further information:

All the documents are available from the NISO Web site  
<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/niso-mi/>

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## Institutional Web Management Workshop 2006

[Marieke Guy](#)



The 10th Institutional Web Management Workshop 2006 will be held at the University of Bath over 14-16 June 2006. The event will provide an opportunity for those involved in the provision of institutional Web services to hear about institutional case studies, national initiatives, emerging technologies and also to participate actively in a number of parallel sessions. The theme for this year's workshop is Quality Matters and there will be sessions looking at how quality assured Web services can be delivered in the constantly changing Web environment.

This year's social events include a drinks reception at the Roman Baths and a barbeque, weather permitting!

### Further information:

Institutional Web Management Workshop 2006:

Quality Matters - Workshop Home Page

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/web-focus/events/workshops/webmaster-2006/>

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## Staff News

[Sally Lewis](#)

Philip Hunter left UKOLN in September 2005, to return to his home city of Edinburgh, and work on the Institutional Repository Infrastructure for Scotland, a project funded by JISC under the Digital Repositories Programme. During his eight years at UKOLN, Philip was editor of *Ariadne* and lately had worked on various activities in the Research & Development Team.

Also moving on last year were Sarah Smith, who worked as UKOLN's Events and Marketing Assistant and Andy Powell, who moved to become Head of Development at the Eduserv Foundation. (See [Andy Powell Moves On](#).) We wish them all well in their new ventures.

In the last few months Julie Allinson, Alex Ball and Maureen Pennock have joined UKOLN.

Julie joins as Digital Repositories Support Officer, a JISC funded role, working on the development of digital repositories in HE, having worked on projects to enable digital and physical access to archival collections in UK universities. Most recently she was a content co-ordinator for the RDN hub Artifact.

Alex is a member of the R&D Team and is working on the Grand Challenge project which aims to find robust ways of handling engineering information and knowledge. Alex's main focus is to exploit synergies between this project and UKOLN's other research interests, including the Digital Curation Centre. Before joining UKOLN, Alex worked for the MoD and more recently was the SWRLS Librarian at Bristol, running a bibliographic and locational research service for interlibrary loans departments across the South-West.

Maureen has also joined the R&D team. She is currently contributing to a range of advisory and information services for the Digital Curation Centre which support and promote continuing improvement in the quality of data curation and associated digital preservation. Her specific areas of interest are digital preservation approaches, digital archiving, authenticity of digital data, and e-government. Before joining UKOLN, Maureen previously worked on the EC-funded ERPANET Project, and on the Digital Preservation Testbed project for the Dutch National Archives. She has also worked for the Dutch e-government knowledge centre.

We extend a warm welcome to new colleagues, and also to Monica Duke, who returns from her maternity leave.

### Further Information:

UKOLN Staff Pages

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/ukoln/staff/>

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## Message from the Editor



Welcome to the latest issue of *focus* with its mixture of news and comment from across all teams here at UKOLN. The [current issue](#) of *Ariadne*, published by UKOLN, is the Magazine's 10th anniversary issue (see [front page](#)). The Spring issue, no.47, is in preparation and will contain the usual range of main articles, event reports and book reviews.

Content by [Richard Waller](#) of [UKOLN](#).

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