

EASTER (Evaluating Automated Subject Tools for Enhancing Retrieval)
<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/easter/>

EASTER is an 18-month JISC project funded under the Information Environment Programme 2009-11. It started in April this year and involves eight institutional partners, with UKOLN acting as the lead.

The purpose of the project is to test and evaluate existing tools for automated subject metadata generation in order to better understand what is possible and what the limitations of current solutions are, and to make subsequent recommendations for services employing subject metadata in the JISC community. The information centre chosen as a test-bed for this project will be Intute. Selected tools for automated subject metadata generation will be tested in two contexts: by Intute cataloguers in the cataloguing workflow; and by end-users of Intute who search for information in Intute as part of their research, learning, and information management.

The methodology includes evaluating several tools for results using a created 'gold standard'. The best tool(s) will then be integrated into the cataloguing workflow, which we will evaluate. Furthermore, we will conduct a task-based end-user retrieval study to determine the contribution of automatically assigned terms and manually assigned terms.