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## Appendix 1. Survey letter with questions

### General

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We are contacting key experts in areas potentially related to the JISC's Terminology Registry Scoping Study (<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/trss/>). As an initial part of the study, we are looking for feedback on requirements, usage scenarios, and comments generally.

A terminology registry describes, identifies and points to sets of vocabularies available for use in information systems and services. The registry allows discovery of suitable schemes for information or, potentially, use, by exposing rich metadata about them for navigation and retrieval. Terminology registries can hold vocabulary scheme level information only, or also include a vocabulary's terms, concepts and relationships. They could also provide services based on terminology (such as crosswalks, browsing, query expansion, disambiguation, automatic classification/indexing, reasoning). They can make their content available for human inspection and machine-to-machine access.

Many basic lists of vocabularies have been made freely available on the Web. An example of a simple terminology registry from the commercial world is the Factiva's Taxonomy Warehouse (<http://www.taxonomywarehouse.com/>). Various international efforts with some form of direct access to underlying vocabulary elements are currently underway. More complex options include the possibility of providing machine-to-machine web services as part of a terminology registry.

Our study analyses issues related to the potential delivery of a terminology registry as a shared infrastructure service within the JISC Information Environment (IE). The role of a terminology registry will be considered in relation to other components of the information landscape and relevant experience in other domains. The study aims to describe usage scenarios and use cases, investigate requirements and sustainability, study costs and benefits. Architectural issues will be explored, in particular the potential for co-ordination of registry efforts within the JISC IE and across domains.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to answer the questions below, addressing requirements and usage scenarios, by Tuesday, 29 April 2008. (Please feel free to pass this email on to someone else in your organisation who might be better placed to respond.) For any further queries, please feel free to contact us via email ([dstudhope@glam.ac.uk](mailto:dstudhope@glam.ac.uk) | [k.golub@ukoln.ac.uk](mailto:k.golub@ukoln.ac.uk)) or telephone (Doug 01443 483 609 | Kora 01225 383 619).

Thank you!

With kind regards,

Koraljka Golub & Doug Tudhope

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### Questions:

- 1) What should in your view a terminology registry comprise, which functionalities should it offer? Please briefly describe what you would see as the main requirements of a terminology registry.
- 2) Might you see yourself as a potential user of a terminology registry? Which of the two potential scenarios would be more useful to your needs, machine-to-machine or for human inspection? Please outline possible usage scenarios (use cases) and explain how they could fit into your work practice.
- 3) What do you see as major barriers and challenges to a terminology registry take-up and implementation?
- 4) Any general comments are welcome.

## Services with KOS

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We are contacting key experts in areas potentially related to the JISC's Terminology Registry Scoping Study (<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/trss/>). As an initial part of the study, we are looking for feedback on requirements, usage scenarios, and comments generally.

A terminology registry describes, identifies and points to sets of vocabularies available for use in information systems and services. The registry allows discovery of suitable schemes for information or, potentially, use, by exposing rich metadata about them for navigation and retrieval. Terminology registries can hold vocabulary scheme level information only, or also include a vocabulary's terms, concepts and relationships. They could also provide services based on terminology (such as crosswalks, browsing, query expansion, disambiguation, automatic classification/indexing, reasoning). They can make their content available for human inspection and machine-to-machine access.

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Thank you!

With kind regards,

Koraljka Golub & Doug Tudhope

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Questions:

- 1) What should in your view a terminology registry comprise, which functionalities should it offer? Please briefly describe what you would see as the main requirements of a terminology registry.
- 2) Might you see yourself as a potential user of a terminology registry? Which of the two potential scenarios would be more useful to your needs, machine-to-machine or for human inspection? Please outline possible usage scenarios (use cases) and explain how they could fit into your work practice.
- 3) What do you see as major barriers and challenges to a terminology registry take-up and implementation?
- 4) In the service(s) you provide, please list any vocabularies used, or planned to be used in the future.
- 5) Any general comments are welcome.

## **Appendix 2. Interview invitation letter**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

We are contacting key experts in areas potentially related to the JISC's Terminology Registry Scoping Study (<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/trss/>). As an initial part of the study, we are looking for feedback on requirements for a terminology registry, usage scenarios, and comments generally.

In our view, a terminology registry describes, identifies and points to sets of vocabularies available for use in information systems and services. The registry allows discovery of suitable schemes for information or, potentially, use, by exposing rich metadata about them for navigation and retrieval. Terminology registries can hold vocabulary scheme level information only, or also include a vocabulary's terms, concepts and relationships. They could also provide services based on terminology (such as crosswalks, browsing, query expansion, disambiguation, automatic classification/indexing, reasoning). They can make their content available for human inspection and machine-to-machine access.

Our study analyses issues related to the potential delivery of a terminology registry as a shared infrastructure service within the JISC Information Environment (IE). The role of a terminology registry will be considered in relation to other components of the information landscape and relevant experience in other domains. The study aims to describe usage scenarios and use cases, investigate requirements and sustainability, study costs and benefits. Architectural issues will be explored, in particular the potential for co-ordination of registry efforts within the JISC IE and across domains.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could take about 30 min of your time for a conference call with us over the next few weeks? If you are willing to do this, as a first attempt would any time suit you on the following days: 24 April, 25 April and 01 May? If possible, please respond by the end of this week, Friday 18 if this would suit you.

We are very much looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you!

With kind regards,

Koraljka Golub & Doug Tudhope

## Appendix 3. List of people who provided input to the study

The following people provided input to the study, via a questionnaire (e-mail) or interview.

### Related projects

#### *JISC*

1	IESR	Ann Apps	(interview)
2	HILT	Dennis Nicholson	(interview)
3	IEMSR	Emma Tonkin	(interview)
4	NAMES	Amanda Hill	(e-mail)
5	GeoXwalk + Edina	James Reid	(e-mail)

#### *International*

6	NSDL registry	Diane Hillman and Jon Phipps	(interview)
7	OCLC registry	Diane Vizine-Goetz and Andrew Houghton	(interview)
8	DART	Jane Hunter	(e-mail)
9	FAO registry	Margherita Sini	(e-mail)

### Subject domains

#### *Cultural heritage*

10	Nick Poole		(interview)
11	Philip Carlisle		(e-mail)

#### *E-science*

12	Roy Lowry		(interview)
13	Sophia Ananiadou		(e-mail)
14	Simon Coles		(e-mail)
15	Brian Matthews		(e-mail)
16	Carole Goble		(e-mail)
17	Sean Bechhofer & Robert Stevens		(e-mail)

#### *E-learning*

18	Lorna Campbell		(interview)
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#### *E-framework*

19	Paul Walk		(interview)
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### Services with terminologies

20	UK repositories	Mahendra Mahey	(interview)
21	EDL	Makx Dekkers	(e-mail)
22	Intute	Debra Hiom	(e-mail)
23	Carmen	Philip Lord	(e-mail)

### Terminology developers

24	Joan Cobb (Getty)		(e-mail)
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### Terminology experts

25	Gail Hodge		(interview)
26	Traugott Koch		(interview)
27	Stella Dexter Clarke		(e-mail)
28	Marcia Zeng		(e-mail)