



UKOLN Director  
Dr Elizabeth Lyon

# Director's Report

It is my great pleasure to present our first "new-look" Annual Report for UKOLN. We hope that you will enjoy reading about our activities and news, and find the information in these pages both useful and engaging.

It has been another busy year for all staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment and contributions.

As a core activity, we have continued to provide strategic and technical support and policy advice to our funders, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (MLA), as well as to the wider community.

A quick look at the changing information landscape reveals the Open Access (OA) philosophy gaining momentum with increased funding for institutional repository development, and we have been pleased to host Programme support for the JISC Digital Repositories Programme in what is a new departure for UKOLN. This has been a fruitful relationship with clear opportunities for facilitating further synergies with the Digital Curation Centre.

It has been hard to escape the impact of Web 2.0 technologies and we have actively promoted collaborative software, folksonomy development and a more participative approach in both the cultural heritage sector and in higher education.

The availability of greater OA content together with newly created services or "mash-ups" makes for a truly exciting prospect for innovative digital library applications for the user community.

As well as welcoming new staff, this year we also said "good-bye" to Andy Powell, who has been the architect of the Information Environment and a key figure at UKOLN: we wish him well in his new role.

The UKOLN team have helped to raise our global profile with a significant number of conference presentations and publications ranging from how to curate your emails in Newcastle, to talking Dublin Core metadata in Shanghai. Our own events Events Programme has once again included some outstanding workshops and in particular, the 10th Institutional Web Management Workshop offered an opportunity for the UK Web community to say "thank you" to Brian Kelly (UK Web Focus), for his sterling work over the years.

We are now looking forward to developing a new Strategy to take us through to 2010 and, whilst in some ways, it is increasingly difficult to predict the changes in the years ahead, it is a rewarding challenge for us to stay at the cutting edge of digital library developments on the international stage.

**Dr Liz Lyon**  
September 2006

# Staff News

Julie Allinson and Mahendra Mahey joined UKOLN in September 2005 as Digital Repositories Support Officers. UKOLN also welcomed Alex Ball who joined in November 2005 to work on the Grand Challenge Project and Maureen Pennock arrived in October 2005 as a Research Officer working on research projects services within the Digital Curation Centre.

This year we said good-bye to Andy Powell in December 2005 who left to join the Eduserv Foundation after a decade of work for UKOLN. Pete Johnston left in April 2006. Philip Hunter and Sarah Smith also left to pursue new ventures.

UKOLN now has two staff working remotely from home.



# Achievement Highlights 2005-2006

- Funding has been secured for new projects and extensions including Digital Repository Programme Support for the JISC, the Intute repository search service and the EU-funded DRIVER Project in which UKOLN is a partner. We have also been commissioned to carry out specific studies for the JISC including a Terminologies Study and a Synthesis of Shared Infrastructure Services activity.
- A number of significant reports and papers have been published including a Digital Repositories Roadmap for JISC, a *DLib* paper on folksonomies by Marieke Guy and Emma Tonkin and a substantive chapter in the Digital Curation Manual by Michael Day.
- The Grand Challenge Project started in October 2005 with UKOLN as a key partner. Project staff have put considerable effort into fostering links with research teams and developing an integrated research plan. In the nine months of the Grand Challenge Project, UKOLN has contributed considerable effort to developing the project's technical infrastructure in line with best digital curation practice, while fostering links between the various research teams. An integrated research plan and a network of industrial collaborators have now been developed.
- UKOLN staff have been invited to make presentations and have had papers accepted at key international conferences and events, including the Augmenting Interoperability meeting in Washington, Building the Information Grid event organized by DEFF in Copenhagen, the Joint DELOS/TEL Meeting, Paris, OAI4 at CERN, Geneva, the German Government e-Science Forum in Berlin, the 3rd European Conference on Research Infrastructures in Nottingham, the 8th International Bielefeld Conference, Germany, the WWW 2006 Conference, Edinburgh, the EU FP7 Research Infrastructure Workshop on Digital Repositories in Brussels and the annual SCOUNL Conference in Newcastle.
- UKOLN carried out a review of the indexing in the Cornucopia collections description database for MLA. Recommendations from the review were accepted and will be implemented in due course and a set of contributor guidelines was also produced.
- UKOLN continues to lead the Outreach activities of the Digital Curation Centre and was responsible for the well-received 1st International Digital Curation Centre Conference held at Bath in September 2005.
- The Events Department has organised many successful conferences and workshops such as the MICHAEL Conference and EU National



Representatives Group meeting in Bristol for MLA as part of the UK Presidency of the EU, the International JISC/CNI Conference in York, three joint British Library/JISC/UKOLN workshops and the Preservation & Value Conference in Edinburgh.

- The 10th Institutional Web Management Workshop was held at the University of Bath in June, opened by the Vice-Chancellor and featured a very topical programme of papers focusing on aspects of Web 2.0 and social software. Over 190 delegates attended.

- UKOLN continues to contribute to the EU-funded DELOS Network of Excellence in Digital Libraries including input to the Digital Preservation Summer School.

- In February *Ariadne* Web Magazine marked its tenth anniversary on the World Wide Web with a special decennial issue which was put together through a collaborative effort between the current editor and two invited former chief editors.

- There were also two further issues of the redesigned *Focus on UKOLN* newsletter in September and March.



# Facts and Figures

## UKOLN Funding

The chart right shows the breakdown of UKOLN funding for the period August 2005 to July 2006.

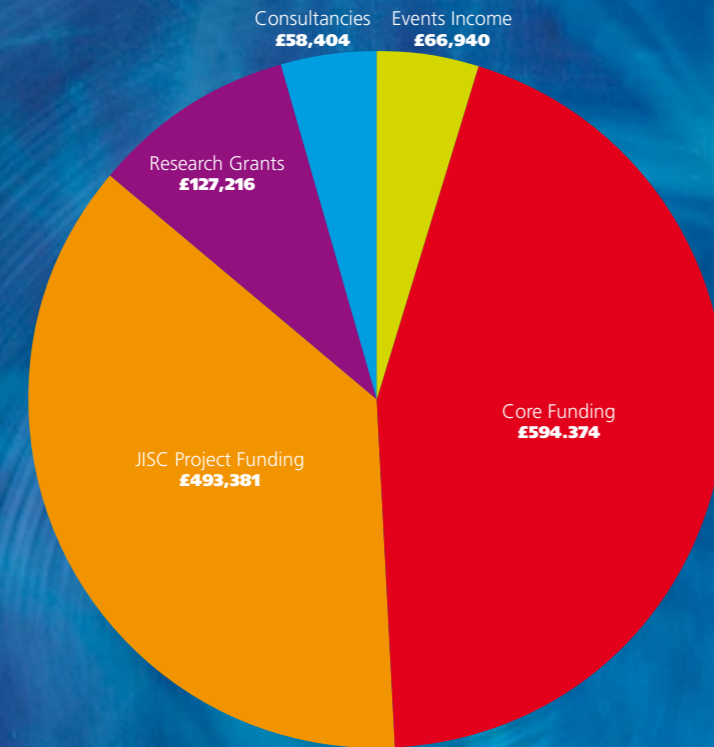
## Press

- The innovative eBank UK Project was featured in two leading publications: *Science* and the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and continues to be of international interest.
- UKOLN hosted Web page "Stories from the Web" featured in *Education Guardian*, October 18 2005.
- Brian Kelly, UKOLN Web Focus was quoted in, Be a screen star but lose the jazz, the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, 17 March 2006.

## Awards

- A paper on "Implementing A Holistic Approach To E-Learning Accessibility" written by Brian Kelly of UKOLN was awarded a prize for the Best Research paper at the international ALT-C 2005 conference.
- Revealweb received a Getting the Message Across Award from the National Information Forum (NIF) on the 19th October 2005 at the Law Society, London. The awards acknowledge excellence and imagination in the provision of information to disabled people and others severely disabled by lack of appropriate information. The citation noted that "the selection panel were impressed by the innovatory aspect of the service, the fact that it is free and the sheer scale of the resource".
- Andy Powell, Assistant Director of UKOLN, was nominated for the *Information World Review* Information Professional of the Year Award in November 2005.

Breakdown of Funding **2005/06**



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UKOLN is funded by the MLA: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the Higher and Further Education Funding Councils, as well as project funding from the JISC, the European Union and the UK Research Councils. UKOLN also receives support from the University of Bath where it is based.



# Annual Report 2006

A centre  
of expertise  
in digital  
information  
management