



UKOLN Director
Dr Liz 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 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

In September 2006, we welcomed Paul Walk and Matt Thrower to UKOLN. As Technical Manager, Paul heads up the Software and Systems Team and Matt was appointed as S&S Team Co-ordinator.

Arte Cropper covered Natasha Bishop's maternity leave during the first half of 2007. During this time Traugott Koch and Greg Tourte moved on and we were joined by Pete Cliff and Stephanie Taylor, to work on the JISC Repositories Support Programme. Maureen Pennock and Marieke Guy both took maternity leave in July and we have recently been joined by Colin Neilson. Colin is working on the SCARP project, associated to the Digital Curation Centre.



Achievement Highlights 2006-2007

- Funding has been secured for new projects and extensions including the JISC-funded SWORD Project, Entag Project and a Terminology Registry Scoping Study, continuing Repository Research Team Programme Support for the JISC, the eCrystals Federation and the EU-funded DRIVER2 and IMPACT projects, in which UKOLN is a partner.
- UKOLN staff have been invited to make presentations and have had papers accepted at key international conferences and events, including the 4th European Conference on Research Infrastructures in Hamburg, EU Science Commons meeting in Brussels, EU Scientific Publishing Conference in Brussels (Workshop Chair), W4A Conference in Banff and Museums and the Web conference in San Francisco.
- The Director was invited to participate in a number of meetings, boards and panels in the US including the 1st Science Commons Conference, the Thomson Scientific Strategic Advisory Board and an NSF CyberInfrastructure Panel.
- A major Report, *Dealing with Data* was published in June, following a specially- commissioned data curation study for the JISC, investigating the relationships between institutions and data centres.
- A number of reports and workshops were delivered by the eBank project, now in its third and final phase: a joint consultation workshop with SPECTRa and R4L projects and accompanying Report, an external Evaluation Report and *A Study of Curation and Preservation issues in the eCrystals Data Repository and proposed federation*.
- As part of its involvement in the KIM Project, UKOLN helped host an international workshop on the long-term retention of engineering knowledge and information in February. UKOLN's research in the project has already delivered a prototype engineering representation information registry, which will be developed and integrated with the DCC/CASPAR tool RRoRI.
- A number of significant reports and papers have been published including a chapter by Michael Day in *Web Archiving*, a book published by Springer, (awaiting further text)
- UKOLN continues to lead the Community Development activities of the Digital Curation Centre, which includes the new DCC SCARP Project exploring disciplinary approaches to data curation and a number of collaborative eScience workshops in Oxford, Manchester, Newcastle and London.



- Since November 2006 UKOLN has been evaluating the potential for blogs and best practices for their deployment and sustainability through the UK Web Focus blog. An evaluation of this blog was carried out in August/September 2007, which clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of this experiment.
- UKOLN has also made use of its experiences in Web 2.0 technologies to advise its communities. A half-day blogging workshop was held at the ILI 2007 conference in November 2007 and a full-day workshop was organised jointly with the Archives Hub, which explored the potential of Web 2.0 for use in the Archives community.
- The 11th Institutional Web Management Workshop was held at the University of York in July 2007 and provided another opportunity for UKOLN to make the presentations available to a wider community though use of live Web streaming technologies. Over 180 delegates attended.
- UKOLN was also responsible for the well-received 2nd International Digital Curation Centre Conference held at Glasgow in December.
- Ariadne Web Magazine continued to offer a broad range of content, publishing a further four issues. However it also reflected areas of particular development such as the growth in activity around digital repositories.
- A further issue of the UKOLN Newsletter "Focus on UKOLN" was published in December.



Facts and Figures

UKOLN Funding

The chart right shows the breakdown of UKOLN funding for the period August 2006 to July 2007.

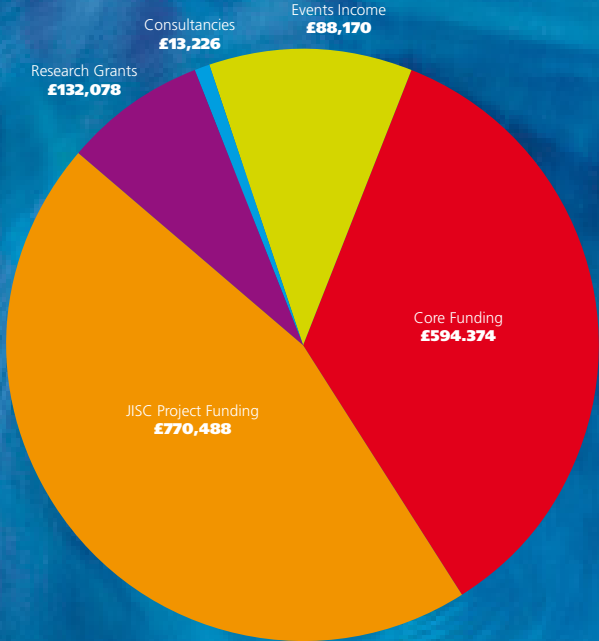
Events A range of events took place including:

- Institutional Web Management Workshop, York, July 2007
- Repositories Support Project (RSP) Summer School, Totnes, June 2007
- Digitisation Workshop, London, February 2007
- 2nd International Digital Curation Conference, Glasgow, November 2006
- CILIP Cataloguing & Indexing Group Annual Conference, Norwich, September 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 2006/07



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Annual Report 2007

A centre
of expertise
in digital
information
management