Report of UK DCMI Affiliate, July 2004-June 2005

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Author:	Pete Johnston
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Summary

This is a summary of the activity of the UK DCMI Affiliate during the period July 2004 - June 2005.

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1   Introduction

In July 2004, the UK Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the UK further and higher education funding bodies signed a joint agreement to establish a UK DCMI Affiliate. The UK was the second country to join the Affiliate programme, following Finland. Other DCMI Affiliates have now been set up in Singapore and, most recently, New Zealand.

The UK DCMI Affiliate has appointed UKOLN as managing agent to plan and co-ordinate UK DCMI Affiliate activity jointly with the JISC and the MLA.

2   Affiliate Delegate

Paul Miller has acted as a UK DCMI Affiliate Delegate at two meetings of the DCMI Board of Trustees.

3   JISC and MLA

JISC and MLA have continued to recommend the use of Dublin Core metadata standards and specifications where appropriate within the services and development programmes that they fund and administer.

JISC and MLA co-fund UKOLN, and several UKOLN staff participate actively in DCMI activity, including membership of the DCMI Usage Board and Advisory Board, the chairing or co-chairing of three DCMI Working Groups, active contributions to several other Working Groups, and support for the AskDCMI advisory service.

4   Managing Agent

UKOLN has sought to promote the work of DCMI and the use of the Dublin Core metadata standards and specifications to the JISC and MLA communities and to a broader constituency within the UK through its core-funded activity, including support for the Common Information Environment initiative, and through various JISC and EC funded projects.

UKOLN has provided support and guidance on the use of Dublin Core to JISC and MLA in their activities described above, as well as responding to requests for advice from individual JISC and MLA projects and service providers.

UKOLN has also provided guidance to parties from other sectors, including the UK Cabinet Office e-Government Unit, who administer the UK e-Government Metadata Standard; and the Sowerby Center for Health Informatics at Newcastle (SCHIN), who are using DC metadata in the context of the National Electronic Library for Health (NeLH).

UKOLN is planning over the next year to raise the profile of Affiliate activity within the UK, and to initiate priority activities after consultation with the community. It will:

- establish a Web site for the UK DCMI Affiliate
- liaise with other DCMI Affiliates
- consult with key UK players involved in DC standards development (BL, NeLH, MoD, Cabinet office)
- investigate appropriate delivery mechanism for training

- establish a mailing list to support discussion by (current and potential) UK Dublin Core implementers
- conduct a Web-based survey of what UK Dublin Core implementers require from the UK DCMI Affiliate
- arrange a face-to-face meeting (probably in November 2005) to
    - disseminate information on current DCMI activity
    - provide a forum for UK Dublin Core implementers to share information on their activity
    - exchange information on requirements for UK DCMI Affiliate activity