

Briefing for UK LOCKSS Alliance Members, November 2008

Dear Colleague,

This is to provide you with an update on the various activities underway as part of the transition of UK LOCKSS Alliance from pilot project into a co-operative organization and support service: the overall aim being to ensure continuing access to scholarly work in ways that are sustainable over the long term.

Project Wrap-up and Dissemination

The UK LOCKSS Pilot Programme came to an end as a JISC-funded project on 31st July 2008. JISC reporting policy requires a final report, which will be available for download soon on the JISC website. For now, a draft version can be found in the LOCKSS Documents area at <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/lockss/docs>. The report is intended to complement the two related JISC funded reports released earlier this year and includes a discussion on the motivations for moving the UK LOCKSS Alliance to EDINA at the University of Edinburgh.

Dissemination of the project history and achievements is set out in "*Establishing a Community-based Approach to Electronic Journal Archiving: LOCKSS*", co-authored by Adam Rusbridge and Seamus Ross and delivered at iPRES 2008. The paper can be found at the project website, at <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/lockss/> or directly at <http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/4635/01/4635.pdf>.

Next Steps

The UK LOCKSS Alliance entered a new phase in its life on 1st August 2008, leaving the pilot phase and making the transition into a self-sustaining Alliance. Over half of the institutions that participated in the Pilot Programme (16/30) have committed to the Alliance, and the remainder may be equally divided into 'probable', 'possible' and 'no'. Therefore, at three months into this new phase, the Alliance currently has sixteen members with good prospect of at least another five. Our target is to exceed thirty over the next two years.

Part way into this new phase, we have been re-examining how best to achieve the aims and objectives set out for UK LOCKSS Alliance. We are now looking to involve you in planning the organization and governance for the Alliance, with EDINA providing the support services for the Alliance. Among the first of those support services will be a review of suitable models to put forward in the near future.

First up, EDINA has been drafting the Terms and Conditions that clarify the roles and responsibilities of EDINA and individual library participants, defining the support to be delivered by EDINA. We aim to circulate these soon with a view to have each institution acknowledge and agree these. We will also be assessing techniques that can be used to enable more comprehensive content identification and negotiation practices, and will continue to improve content access mechanisms. In addition, we are planning a workshop to be held early next year; we will keep you informed of the date once it's been finalized.

Promotion Activities

JISC Collections have been taking a very positive stance towards the UK LOCKSS Alliance and this is especially important with respect to achieving buy-in from publishers. In September they

organized an evening reception for publishers: “Long term Archiving of e-journals and the Role of the Publisher”. This event was intended to update NESLi2 and NESLi2-SMP publishers on the demand for LOCKSS and the surrounding activities by JISC and JISC Collections. Lorraine Estelle highlighted the introduction of a NESLi2 clause requiring participation in at least one archiving initiative; Terry Morrow summarized the findings of the Comparison Study; Vicky Reich and Adam Rusbridge delivered an overview of the UK LOCKSS Alliance and technology; Peter Burnhill gave an update on PEPRS, a new JISC-funded project that EDINA is carrying out with the ISSN International Centre to pilot an e-journals preservation registry service (about which more in a later Briefing, but see edina.ac.uk/projects).

It is also important that we can invite new institutions to join the UK LOCKSS Alliance. To that end we have been preparing a selection of promotional materials.

If you would be interested in hosting a LOCKSS presentation at an upcoming event, please do get in touch. For example, in July Adam Rusbridge presented to the North East and Yorkshire Academic Libraries (NEYAL) consortium.

Operational News

Content Release Process

Release of new content for ingest into the LOCKSS network has temporarily been suspended while improvements are made to content testing and release procedures.

Before new content can be made available for ingest in a LOCKSS box, the associated plugin undergoes a quality assurance (QA) process to ensure that the content to be archived is complete and accurate. Currently, the US-based LOCKSS team is implementing a new toolkit that will streamline the QA process and increase the rate at which content is released. We expect the work to be completed in the coming weeks and for the content release process to resume in January.

Content Access Mechanisms

Librarians keen to see a mechanism that allowed LOCKSS to integrate with link resolver systems should note that the required functionality to serve content was released in daemon 1.32.4 at the end of July.

We are currently working with De Montfort University to integrate LOCKSS into their SFX resolver and develop documentation for the wider community. However, this does not mean other institutions should wait to undertake integration of LOCKSS into their institutional environment. The differences in local setups mean that we would like to offer individual support to each institution. If you would like to begin integration, please get in touch: we'd be delighted to work with you.

Please do not hesitate to contact the UK LOCKSS Alliance Support Service at lockss-support@dcc.ac.uk if you have any questions or if there are specific topics you'd like to see discussed.

Adam Rusbridge
UK LOCKSS Alliance Support Service
EDINA / Digital Curation Centre
University of Edinburgh