

Private LOCKSS Networks

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UK LOCKSS Alliance Members' Meeting

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Private LOCKSS Networks: Background

- Community Development Funding provides resource to assess UK PLN development
 - *The UK LOCKSS Alliance Steering Committee will assess with members the usage of LOCKSS for other types of content of shared interest, with the goal of introducing a UK-specific Private LOCKSS Network.*
- PLNs discussed at last years UKLA Members' Meeting
 - Outcome was that a member survey needed to gauge interest
- Survey conducted in October and November 2011
- Aim was to investigate:
 - The value of Private LOCKSS Networks to UKLA members
 - The type of content members wish to preserve
 - Cost and resource implications
- Overall response rate of 50% of the UKLA membership
- Later widened to non-members, via LIS-E-Resources JISCMail list.
 - One (former) institution responded.

Preservation Strategy

To determine the extent to which UKLA Members have a strategy in place to store and preserve digital assets

E-Preservation strategy

All respondents are moving towards developing an e-preservation strategy for their assets

Some explicitly mention the need for preservation within collection development policies or institutional strategy, but none have yet progressed beyond this point.

Current management of digital assets

Respondents all use institutional repositories or content management systems for managing their digital asset collections

Only one institution / IR (an E-Prints repository for research outputs) has a preservation policy attached.

Material not yet not yet archived

All respondents bar one stated they have institutional assets which are not yet archived (and therefore cannot be preserved) within their current infrastructure.

Establishing a PLN: Content

Digital material requiring preservation	No respondents had yet undertaken a systematic audit to identify full extent of unpreserved content
Ownership of digital assets within the institution	Owned either by departments, library, or university as a whole Departmental / university content most at risk Risk assessment required to prompt action
Suitability of a PLN with regard to licensing problems	Agreement that PLN is a suitable system for preservation needs Did not anticipate licensing problems Some concerns about security, as other institutions may have access to sensitive data
Preference for a geographically distributed approach	All stated they would prefer a geographically distributed solution However, limited enthusiasm for scenario where each member held a box
Suitability of the UK LOCKSS Alliance as a forum for establishing a UK PLN	UKLA seems a good forum for discussing this with others, though most have not yet had discussions Subject Associations or RLUK may be more effective

Establishing a PLN: Costs and Resources

Preferred Architectural Model	<p>Preference for some centralisation (i.e. distributed at EDINA and Mimas).</p> <p>No one preferred distribution of boxes at each institution.</p>
Resourcing an extra LOCKSS box	<p>More info needed about costs, level of staff commitment and type of work involved.</p> <p>One stated this was a priority: committed to PLNs</p> <p>Another clear that no resource available for this.</p>
Involvement in leadership and governance	<p>Some enthusiasm for governance, as long as the institution was contributing a substantial quantity of content to justify the resource.</p>
Potential involvement in common responsibilities necessary to a UK PLN	<p>Interested respondents prepared to be involved in some or all of the PLN maintenance activities</p> <p>Tasks include: content selection, resolving copyright issues, participating in governance, ensuring sustainability and exploring new technologies and best practice.</p>

Main findings from the survey

- Institutions are looking for affordable solutions to digital preservation.
 - Formal e-preservation strategies have often yet to be developed.
- A PLN would provide a solution for digital content identified by institutions
 - Must demonstrate it was low-cost and sustainable.
- 5 of 9 total respondents indicated current interest in joining a UK PLN
 - Two of the others are committed to developing their own in-house digital preservation infrastructure.
- Systematic audits needed to identify full extent of digital assets requiring preservation
- Architecture where content is stored at multiple geographic locations
 - However a fully distributed approach was not favoured.
- Some concerns about content security issues between institutions.



Conclusions of the report

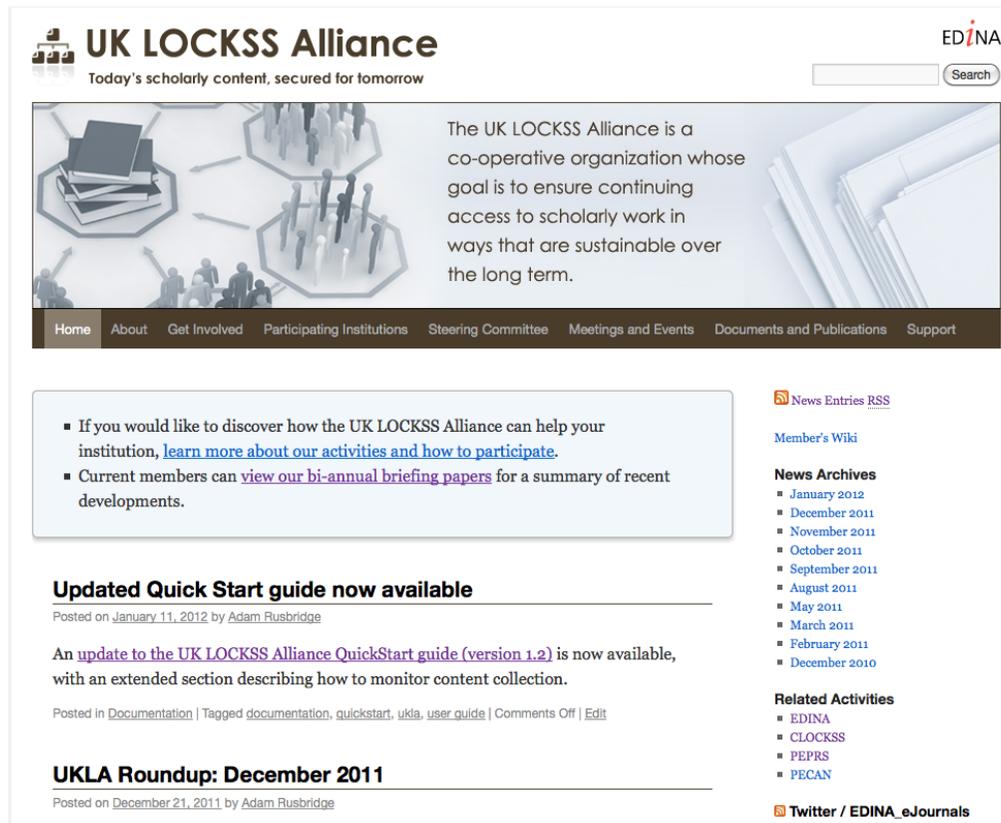
- Acknowledgement that a UK PLN may provide a viable solution to the preservation of institutional assets
- However, clearer information is needed:
 - From UKLA Support Service, on the resources needed to carry out PLN activity
 - From members, on the full extent of digital material requiring preservation
- Uncertainty has resulted in a muted response
 - Difficult for members to anticipate financial commitments of participation
- For a UK PLN to succeed in preference to institutions making their own provisions, members need:
 - Clear and demonstrable financial benefits, and/or
 - A shared interest in preserving a particular body or types of content
- Without these it would be difficult to gain widespread acceptance and commitment to a UK PLN

Recommendations

- Assess where a cohesive need is shared by the organising group.
 - Institutions should identify others for shared preservation of similar or related collections
 - Identify shared goals which could form the basis of a new PLN
 - Outputs from the JISC Digitisation programme projects may be a better fit: the UKLA should assess a pilot for this group with JISC
- Explore the possibility of a consortial membership in MetaArchive.
 - Allow keen members to join an established model and infrastructure
 - Success of early adopters may act as motivation for others
- Establish short working group for enthusiastic institutions
- EDINA to consider implementing a trial PLN for limited content and institutions.
- Advocate audit of institutional assets where this is a necessary first step
 1. Analysis of the specific range of content requiring preservation
 2. Analysis of any privacy and security issues around off-site access.



Find out more...



The screenshot shows the UK LOCKSS Alliance website. At the top left is the logo with the text "UK LOCKSS Alliance" and the tagline "Today's scholarly content, secured for tomorrow". To the right is the EDINA logo and a search bar. Below the header is a main banner with an illustration of people and books, and a text box stating: "The UK LOCKSS Alliance is a co-operative organization whose goal is to ensure continuing access to scholarly work in ways that are sustainable over the long term." A navigation menu is located below the banner. The main content area features a list of links: "If you would like to discover how the UK LOCKSS Alliance can help your institution, [learn more about our activities and how to participate](#)." and "Current members can [view our bi-annual briefing papers](#) for a summary of recent developments." Below this is a section titled "Updated Quick Start guide now available" with a sub-header "Updated Quick Start guide now available", a post date "Posted on January 11, 2012 by Adam Rusbridge", and a paragraph: "An [update to the UK LOCKSS Alliance QuickStart guide \(version 1.2\)](#) is now available, with an extended section describing how to monitor content collection." Below this is another section titled "UKLA Roundup: December 2011" with a sub-header "UKLA Roundup: December 2011", a post date "Posted on December 21, 2011 by Adam Rusbridge", and a paragraph: "An [update to the UK LOCKSS Alliance QuickStart guide \(version 1.2\)](#) is now available, with an extended section describing how to monitor content collection." On the right side of the page, there are several links: "News Entries RSS", "Member's Wiki", "News Archives" (with a list of months from January 2012 to December 2010), "Related Activities" (with a list of organizations: EDINA, CLOCKSS, PEPRS, PECAN), and "Twitter / EDINA_eJournals".

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