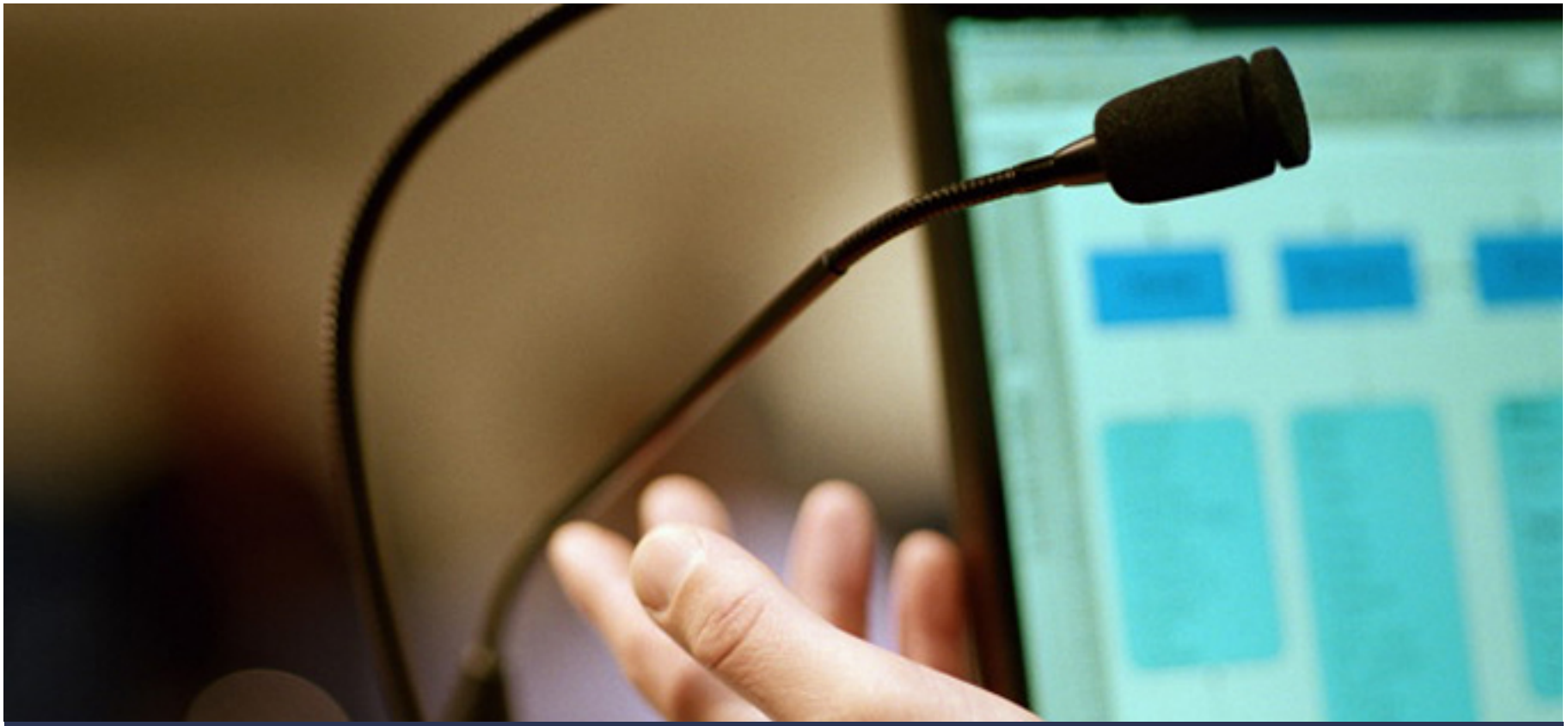
JISC

The Value of Content in an Open World

Fiesole Conference, Glasgow - 25 July 2009



Fiesole Conference 2009, Glasgow

Dr Malcolm Read
JISC Executive Secretary

JISC

English higher education sector (2007-08)

- 132 institutions (88 universities plus 44 specialist institutions and general colleges)
- 143 directly funded FE colleges providing HE courses
- Total HEFCE funding: £7.1 billion
- 992,000* full time students (1 in 7 from overseas)
- Overseas student fee income: £1.3 billion
- England remains the favourite destination of international students after the much larger US university system **
- Research productivity: UK academics produce 16 citations per US dollar (compared with 10 in US, and 4 in Japan)***
- Open University: 161,000 part-time distance learners

* Full-time equivalent HEFCE-funded home and EC students.

** Student Pulse: i-graduate, Jan 08

*** Science & Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014 Progress against indicators, Jul 06

JISC

The Open Environment

- Open Source – software
- Open Standards – interoperability
- Open Access – R outputs
- Open Data – usually R data
- Open Educational Resources – course material
- Open Science – and innovation

JISC

Open Source – Library Management Systems

- Current LMS offerings need updating – not good enough at helping to find on-line resources, poor integration with admin systems, limited Web2.0 support etc.

- Interest in open source approaches (Mellon-OLE, Evergreen, Koha)

- Open source needs good technical resources in-house and should include adding volume through development. Few organisations have these resources but collaboration might be the answer (HEFCE/SCONUL study).

JISC

Open Standards

- Essential for interoperability, which in turn is essential for flexibility of systems
- Enables building of “best of breed” systems – especially in admin environment
- Takes a long time to develop, often disappointing in early stages
- Some suppliers prefer a “locked in” environment; can be attractive short term but inhibits growth and integration

JISC

Open Access

- Driven by conviction that the outputs of publicly funded research should be publicly available

- Usually applied to R outputs such as scholarly papers, monographs. Less often books and data

JISC

Open Innovation

- Widen access to institutional applied knowledge through online open access models
- Widen base of research contributors
- Tools to support collaborative research (colaboratories; VRE)

JISC

‘Open Science’ or ‘Open Research’ – what is it?

- Research “conducted in the spirit of free and open source software”.
- Methodology, data and results freely online, enabling massively distributed collaboration
- Transparent working practices
- Complete and persistent access to the original data
- but recognising the economics of science
  - “collaborate to compete”
  - So, a continuum of openness (eg not all failed experiments might be open)
- At one end of the continuum…
  - “Open Notebook Science is the practice of making the entire primary record of a research project publicly available online as it is recorded.”

JISC

‘Open Science’ or ‘Open Research’ – some examples

JISC

Open Education: Web 2.0

- Web 2.0: provides greater flexibility and access to information.
- Students adding value in their own right.
- Embedding software systems – especially closed systems – is no help!
- Change of culture required by institutions to use externally hosted software or external storage of content due to ‘control’, ‘audit’, ‘compliance’ and ‘rights’ issues.

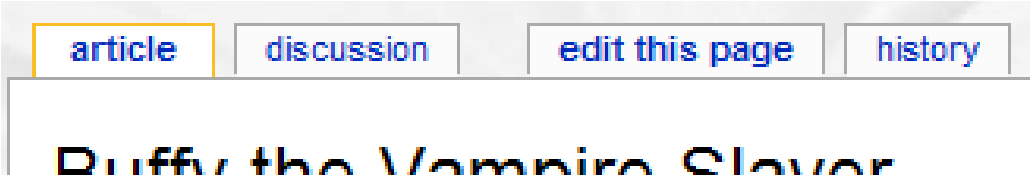
> "*My organisation has been very encouraging but we are on the brink of making decisions about proprietary software and there is always a tension around 'openness' and 'closed' (secure) ways of operating in the online environment*.“*

*A review of current and developing international practice in the use of social networking (Web 2.0) in higher education, Armstrong/Franklin, 2008.

JISC

Open Education: Ecology

- The growth of participative (web 2.0) technologies have changed irrevocably the way that educators and learners work with content online.



- OER “collections” can be targeted at specific student audiences
- Is the “traditional” education technology ecosystem ready to meet these users where they are?
- Interoperability between various monolithic VLEs and with open resources is a significant problem
- Simple mandated metadata and standards required

image: wikipedia screengrab

JISC

Repositories

Open Resources (R outputs, data, L&T resources, etc) are typically made available through repositories

- Commercial repositories (e.g. publishers)
- National repositories (e.g. subject repositories)
- Institutional repositories (e.g. university)

JISC

Institutional Repositories

A “shop window” for a university or college to make available all their open on-line information. Important for prestige, marketing and efficient management of assets.

JISC

Repositories: Issues

- Ownership
- Selection
- Duration
- Q standards
- Scope
- Costs + sustainability
- Benefits and to whom
- Management
- Meta-data
- Rights
- Q of service
- Skills
- Interoperability

JISC

Repositories: vision

- Linkage - IR + subject + OER = national
- National join up leads to a world wide infrastructure of scholarly and academic resources.

JISC

Role of University Libraries

- Real opportunity
- Pivotal role
- Working collaboratively with others
  - Research councils, national libraries, university research depts, computing depts, learning technologists, administration depts
  - Publishing and content industries

JISC

Questions and Discussion