

Content update: the NHS Finch pilot

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NHS-HE Forum, London

4 June 2015

Drivers for enhancing access to content

A survey carried out in 2003/2004 discovered that only 40% of the online full text of NHS-funded research articles was immediately accessible to NHS staff

Cockerill M. How accessible is NHS-funded research to the general public and to the NHS's own researchers? 2 February 2004. (Submission to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee's Inquiry into Scientific Publications). Available from: <http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/263105/2/399we53.htm>

Based on a sample analysis, 65.6% of Wellcome-funded research content remained inaccessible in 2012 in NHS England, compared to 2.8% that remained inaccessible at a research-intensive university.

This discrepancy was reflected in the GMC National Training Survey results for 2012: UK-wide, only 55.11% of medical trainees considered the provision of online journals to be good or very good; and only 12.45% of that number considered the provision of online journals to be very good. In 2015 these figures are still as low as 14.42% - 56.08%.

See <http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/surveys.asp>



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Licence extension models: some background

Published in 2008, the Peter Hill report of a national review of NHS health library services in England – “From knowledge to health in the 21st Century” – identified that “there would be great advantages in the NHS and HE [Higher Education] working together on joint procurement”

http://www.libraryservices.nhs.uk/document_uploads/NHS_Evidence/national_library_review_final_report_4feb_081.pdf

Previous efforts to provide joint licensing of e-resources across the university-health service divide in England had met with varying degrees of success. However, one licensing model, as adopted by the London Medical Schools Group (LMSG), has produced benefits over the past 15 years or so. This has been based on the principle of extending licences held by the universities to include NHS staff at affiliated NHS Trusts



AHSC Pilot 2011-2013

With the links between the universities and affiliated NHS organisations becoming even stronger through Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs), the drive for LMSG-type licensing initiatives was unlikely to diminish. The scene was set for a pilot which was announced in February 2011

The pilot programme, organised by Jisc Collections, the UK academic community e-content procurement and negotiation service, allowed the **universities** at the centre of the AHSCs to **extend** to their partner NHS organisations **access to their subscribed content**

<http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/News/New-pilot-project-looks-to-develop-licensing-models-for-Academic-Health-Science-Centres/>

As anticipated, levels of use by NHS staff were low, especially when compared to academic levels of use



Working Group on Expanding Access to Published Research Findings

Chaired by Dame Janet Finch, a Working Group on **Expanding Access to Published Research Findings** was set up to examine how UK-funded research findings could be made more accessible. The group produced its report in June 2012 (“The Finch Report”).

<http://www.researchinfonet.org/publish/finch/>

This

- concentrated on journals
- asserted that “the principle that the results of research that has been publicly funded should be freely accessible in the public domain is a compelling one and fundamentally unanswerable”
- identified key actions relating to
 - open access and hybrid journals
 - **extensions to licensing (HE-wide; HE+health; walk-in access in public libraries)**
 - repositories
- stressed these mechanisms are not mutually exclusive and proposed a mixed model



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The Finch Report 3 years on: the NHS pilot

In October 2013, Jisc Collections and NHS England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, invited identified NESLi2 publishers to engage in a **one-year free trial period** to extend access to NESLi2 academic research content licensed for the UK academic sector to NHS users

For this one-year period, funding would be made available to publishers to enable OpenAthens and IP set-up, ongoing maintenance and usage data collection and analysis. **No funding was available to licence NESLi2 academic research content** for NHS users during the trial period

The results of the trial would inform Jisc Collections, publishers and NHS libraries about future decisions about relevant access and/or pricing models for NHS users to extend the existing Jisc Collections' NESLi2 licence agreements

The one-year pilot project commenced in April/May 2014 involving a range of publishers.

<https://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/journals/Extending-Access--2014-NHS-Pilot/>



The NHS Finch pilot

The publishers involved in the pilot were as follows:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (2 titles)
- Annual Reviews (26 titles) – to 31 Dec 2014
- Elsevier Science Direct (147 titles)
- Institute of Physics Publishing (103 titles)
- Karger (130 titles)
- Nature Publishing Group (120 titles)
- Oxford University Press (88 titles) – to 31 Dec 2014
- Royal Society of Chemistry (57 journal titles and Merck Index)
- Springer (1,950 journal titles and 40,000+ e-books) – to 31 Dec 2014

2,626 additional journal titles available to the NHS in total

OCLC worked with the Jisc Collections' KB+ team and NICE to enable the A-Z list with the pilot titles



The NHS Finch pilot: milestones

Date	Milestone
October 2014	First usage analysis (April 2014 – September 2014 usage). Publishers to provide usage data for NHS trusts.
November 2014	Usage analysis and mid-trial report
November 2014	Meeting to discuss initial pilot outcomes with stakeholders and establish business model /approach
December 2014	Initial meetings with publishers
January-March 2014	Meetings with publishers to discuss pilot outcomes and business model
March 31st 2015	Pilot officially ends
May 2015	Second usage analysis (April 2014-March 2015). Publishers to provide usage data for NHS trusts
June 2015	Usage analysis and final draft report
July 2015	Final report



The NHS Finch pilot: update after 12 months

Some first findings:

- Usage for the 12 months is now being collected from publishers and analysed; usage data is unavailable from one publisher
- Over 1,000,000 downloads have been recorded, though usage varies across publishers and across NHS regions
- Some high use titles have been identified - these are not always the same as those in universities with medical schools
- In addition to the e-journals in this pilot, it is interesting to note the use that was made of the Springer e-book collection which was also included in the pilot

Initial comment from one NHS librarian:

“This is such a positive project and has really ignited further interest in research content amongst our staff”



Next steps

- Meetings with publishers have begun to take place in recent months: discussions are going well
- All options are being explored for funding, with a target of no more than 80p per download as a standard
- Work now has to take place to identify recurrent funding to move this provision of research journals from a pilot to a formal service
- The current effort is to locate funding in each AHSN or CRN
- Appropriate pricing has been offered per AHSN by two publishers
- One publisher has provided pricing per AHSN that is around the price we would expect for all England
- Another publisher is not engaging as they deem the returns to be insufficient
- Some publishers have extended access beyond the end of the pilot while awaiting the final report and further discussion:
 - Institute of Physics Publishing, Royal Society of Chemistry, Karger, Springer (minus the Adis journals), Annual Reviews
- The final pilot report about to be produced and published



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