

# The Finch HE-NHS pilot: extending access to research publications for UK NHS staff

Presented by Richard Osborn  
*on behalf of Betsy Anagnostelis*  
NHS-HE Forum, 22nd May 2014

# 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

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



# 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](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), had produced benefits over the previous decade. This was 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, will allow 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/>

- 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



# The Finch Report – June 2012

- “In the health sector, there is scope for increasing and rationalising arrangements for licensed access across the NHS, and greater co-ordination with the HE sector... Providing access to all relevant journals for all those who work in the NHS would cost relatively little on top of what is already spent on licences.”

<http://www.researchinfonet.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Finch-Group-report-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

- “With the publication of the Finch Report, the issue of **extending access to licensed content** to the health sector has been highlighted and recommended hence the work undertaken during the AHSC Pilot will prove a good foundation for considering possibilities going forward. With the publication of the Finch Report, the issue of extending access to licensed content to the health sector has been highlighted and recommended hence the work undertaken during the AHSC Pilot will prove a good foundation for considering possibilities going forward.”

<http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/Reports/AHSC-Pilot-Report-August-2012/>



# The Finch Report two years on: access for NHS staff

We welcome the work that Jisc is doing to investigate **options for extensions to licensing** (*Research Information Network, October 2013*)

<http://www.researchinfonet.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Final-version.pdf>

Jisc has been exploring options to extend university licences so that they allow for access to NHS staff

A one-year pilot project commenced in April/May 2014, with the help of external funding, involving a range of publishers to test the feasibility of extending HE licences so that they provide access to NHS staff.



# The JISC Collections initiative / “Finch pilot”

- Jisc Collections 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 has been made available to publishers to enable OpenAthens and IP set-up, ongoing maintenance and usage data collection and analysis.
- No funding is available to licence NESLi2 academic research content for NHS users during the trial period.
- The results of the trial will inform Jisc Collections, publishers and librarians about future decisions about relevant access and/or pricing models for NHS users to extend the existing Jisc Collections’ NESLi2 licence agreements.
- Full details are available at:  
<https://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/nesli2/Extending-Access--2014-NHS-Pilot/NHS-Pilot-Title-information/>





# The JISC Collections initiative / “Finch pilot”

The Publishers involved in the pilot are as follows:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (2 titles)
- Annual Reviews (26 titles)
- Elsevier Science Direct (147 titles)
- Institute of Physics Publishing (105 titles)
- Nature Publishing Group (37 titles)
- Oxford University Press (88 titles)
- Royal Society of Chemistry (57 titles)
- Springer (1,800+ journal titles and 40,000+ ebooks)

Initial comment from one NHS librarian:

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



**UCL Library Services**

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Royal Free London   
NHS Foundation Trust

*For further information, contact:*

Richard Osborn, London Strategic Lead for Library Services & eLearning

Tel: 020 7863 1682

Email: [richard.osborn@southlondon.hee.nhs.uk](mailto:richard.osborn@southlondon.hee.nhs.uk)

Betsy Anagnostelis, Librarian, Royal Free Hospital Medical Library &  
Joint Academic Support Manager: Biomedicine, UCL Library Services

Tel: 020 7472 6781

Email: [ucylbet@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ucylbet@ucl.ac.uk) ; [betsy.anagnostelis@nhs.net](mailto:betsy.anagnostelis@nhs.net)

