

Update on content issues including the AHSC pilot

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NHS-HE Forum
30 May 2012

About AHSCs

“Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs) are formal partnerships between a university and healthcare providers that aim to improve the quality of health services and the health of the population by bringing research, education and patient care closer together.”

Five AHSCs were officially designated by government in March 2009:

- Cambridge University Health Partners
- Imperial College AHSC
- King's Health Partners
- Manchester AHSC
- UCL Partners

<http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/0/12F26C3313D994838025757400470B87?OpenDocument>



New pilot project looks to develop licensing models for Academic Health Science Centres

“A year long pilot programme jointly established between JISC Collections, Academic Health Science Centres and major STM publishers and database suppliers will seek to develop sustainable models for enhanced provision of access to high quality e-content across NHS and academic staff.”

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



Pilot details

“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 from Elsevier, Nature Publishing Group, Springer, Thomson Reuters and Wolters Kluwer Health.”

“Over the course of the year all stakeholders will work together to review the impact on usage, administration, and licensing requirements arising from the pilot.”

All of the publishers granted this extended access at no additional cost for 2011; four publishers extended the plot to end of May 2012.



Challenges

Setting up the pilot

- Enabling the resources through NHS Athens
- Enabling access via the NHS Link Resolver
- Sharing the knowledge so that all pilot participants can benefit
- Deciding how to present the resources to users; multiple access points
- Communicating with site managers / Athens and Link Resolver administrators
- Communicating with other AHSC-like organisations over the scope of the pilot and potential prospects

Maintaining publisher engagement

- Interpreting the figures
- Staying “on message” (change of personnel; continuity of commitment)
- Addressing publisher concerns
- Defining an end point and possibly a distinctive licensing model beyond a pilot



Initial outcomes

- The pilot has been well received, even though opportunities to promote it widely were restricted by start-up delays
- As anticipated, levels of use by NHS staff are low, especially when compared to academic levels of use; figures continue to confirm this
- Four publishers agreed to an extension to end of May, with at least two now extending beyond May
- It is understood that any model that emerges should be scalable to other joint university medical school / healthcare provider arrangements
- Other publishers are beginning to adopt a simple licence extension model even before the outcomes of this pilot have been formally announced
- Next steps now need to be agreed
- There may yet be another way...



Working Group of Expanding Access to Published Research Findings

“A Working Group on Expanding Access to Published Research Findings has been set up to examine how UK-funded research findings can be made more accessible. This independent group will propose a programme of action and make recommendations to government, research funders, publishers and other interested parties on how access to research findings and outcomes can be broadened for key audiences such as researchers, policy makers and the general public.”

<http://www.researchinfonet.org/publish/wg-expand-access/>



National licensing?

“In its deliberations, the group is drawing on the expertise of three specialist sub-groups, which are examining key issues of principle and practice that would be involved in increasing access to published outputs via the routes of, respectively, (i) greater take-up of open-access publishing, (ii) open-access repositories and (iii) development of national licensing.”



National licensing?

“The model that will be elaborated by the WG will draw from several perspectives, and will reflect a mixed economy for the foreseeable future, characterised by concurrent approaches to expanding access, all of which are legitimate; these should include Gold and Green OA, but also the subscription model and extensions in licensing. Inevitably, the model will therefore be complex.”

The group is due to produce its report in June 2012...



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