

The AHSC pilot: an update

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Drivers for enhancing access to content

A study published in 2004 found that only 40% of the online full texts of NHS-funded research articles were immediately accessible to NHS staff

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 the NHS is a relatively modest player in the field of procurement of library and knowledge service content. Higher education spends considerably more on the acquisition of content, particularly electronic content, than the NHS, a ratio of approximately 10 to 1 (approximately £100M by HE and £10M by the NHS)

The Academic Health Science Centre model is based on close links between a medical school and associated hospital(s). Even greater pressure for enhanced access often arises as a result of research and education priorities common to the organisations involved.



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>



Background to the AHSC model

8 April 2009: JISC Collections

- NHS-HE Forum Content Group held a meeting of stakeholders from the four Home Countries
- Possible models for joint procurement were considered
 - The London Medical Schools Group consortium was identified as a model that had worked to date
 - It was suggested that the new Academic Health Science Centres could be a model group in England. In this model, the academic institution is at the centre, and procurement may well be negotiated by the academic institution.
- JISC Collections would act as a neutral advisor and negotiator for content procurement



June 2010

JISC Collections workshop with publishers discussed outline proposals

September 2010 – January 2011

Information collected around

- numbers of staff at NHS Trusts to be included in the pilot
- NHS Athens orgIDs to be included
- resources for which academic centres would hold subscriptions during 2011

November 2010

JISC Collections Workshop with five publishers attending:

- Elsevier
- Nature Publishing
- Springer
- ThomsonReuters
- Wolters Kluwer



28 February 2011

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/>



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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.

All of the publishers have granted this extended access at no additional cost for 2011. 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.



Challenges

- Enabling the resources through NHS Athens
 - first set of resources enabled December 2010; last set enabled April 2011
 - still liaising with publishers over details; some gaps still remaining
- Enabling access via the NHS Link Resolver
 - difficulties matching Athens permissions with sets in the NHS Link Resolver
- Sharing the knowledge so that all pilot participants can benefit
 - local Link Resolver administrators have been writing guides, sharing their expertise so as to help deal with the issues arising from each implementation
- Deciding how to present the resources to users; multiple access points
 - not all resources could be linked through the Link Resolver (eg databases)
 - MyAthens invariably needs to be used, too
- Communicating with site managers / Athens and Link Resolver administrators
 - some sites are still showing 0 usage
- Communicating with other AHSC-like organisations over the scope of the pilot and potential prospects



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
- Given the start-up delays, the usage data is still being collected
- Publishers are being approached to consider extending the pilot to allow more comprehensive usage data to be collected. One publisher has already agreed to an extension
- It is understood that any model that emerges should be scalable to other joint university medical school / healthcare provider arrangements



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