

## **Questions and Answers from e-Infrastructure presentations, Capital Programme Briefing Day 9 May 2007**

### **Semantic tools & services – am session**

Question (University of Essex):

With regard to 'workflows', how will these be defined for the purpose of the call; are only formalised workflows, for example between repositories or using webservices, of interest? Is there any scope for addressing less formal workflows, for example between peer to peer services?

Answer:

We are open-minded, and will wait and see what responses we get. We are keen to develop appropriate models for different research communities, and part of the intent behind this call is to find out what those models are. If in doubt, there are contact details in the call, and whilst we won't write your proposal for you, we will be happy to give pointers as to whether your proposed work is in scope.

Supplementary Question:

And will there be scope for looking at incomplete workflows, or are only complete cycles of interest?

Answer:

Ideally, we would prefer to look at complete cycles; however in view of the time constraints, which mean that projects have to complete their work by March 2009, we understand that it may not be possible to address a complete cycle, but it is important that any projects addressing partial cycles must consider how they fit in with a full cycle.

Question (Oxford University):

Is any formal 'clustering' of projects intended?

Answer:

We will consider this in the light of the responses we receive. We are looking to fund only 3 or 4 projects, so there would not be a particularly large cluster! However, we are looking at ways of linking up projects within all the e-Research programmes, where appropriate, and also between e-Research programmes and other JISC funded programmes. We would expect projects to work with us on this so that we can achieve something more than a collection of disparate projects.

## **Text mining/ASSERT**

Question (University of Essex)

What types of social science repositories will be used to test the software?

Answer:

At present, only papers deposited with the EPPI Centres, based at London University, are used, but the software can deal with papers in most text formats, but pdf files would need to be converted to text to be readable. It is part of the nature of this call to determine what resources people need and what needs to be done to access these, and you should discuss this further with NaCTeM. If the work required exceeds the funds available within this call, customisation of text mining tools for specific disciplines might be the subject of future calls.

## **Questions and answers, pm session**

Question (University of Leicester):

Are the amounts of funding allocated for specific activities within the programme definitely fixed, or will there be flexibility to re-allocate funds between activities?

Answer:

We will consider this in the light of responses received. There is a maximum of £1million available for around 3-4 projects which will give you some indication of project size, but we don't want to be over prescriptive. We do reserve the right not to allocate all of the funds.

Question (University of Leicester)

Are bids welcome from new bidders, or is likely that only existing collaborations will be funded?

Answer:

Bids will be marked on the criteria in the call. Having a good track record in similar projects (not necessarily JISC) is important. Inevitably those who have successfully bid to JISC in the past will know how to write good proposals, and those who already have a collaboration in place will have a head start over those who need to build one for this call. However, we would like to see "new blood", and we are improving our guidelines to bidders to make it easier for newcomers to know what the reviewers look for in successful proposals.

## **Text mining/ASSERT**

Question (University of Oxford):

Is ASSERT about text mining for social science?

Answer:

ASSERT is about expanding the use of text mining tools into the social science domain; we are seeking to fund exemplar projects to test the tools. We want to investigate how easy or difficult it would be to reconfigure generic tools for specific research communities, and the pilot projects will help with this.

Question (University of Leicester):

Can you define what is meant by 'social sciences'?

Answer:

We would define this as any research funded by the ESRC.

Question (Oxford University):

What should be the nature/extent of institutional support for bids in this round?

Answer:

We want to see examples of real research being carried out using these tools. Such work may not necessarily be key to an institution's mission so the nature of that contribution may differ from other JISC calls. For instance, we can't fund research per se, so one option might be to identify a suitable research project that is already underway, and we can then fund the development of tools to assist that research, with involvement of the researchers themselves as part of the institutional contribution.