

Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)

INVITATION TO TENDER

Publisher Metadata and Interoperability Projects II

Summary

1. This document invites proposals to undertake projects that help to further develop interoperability between publishers and aggregators and the [JISC Information Environment \(IE\)](#). The aim of these projects is to highlight and explore the issues surrounding the development of interoperable, metadata-based services offered by publishers based on their electronic publications. The projects are expected to be of a three to ten months timescale and to start no later than October 2005.
2. The Joint Information Systems Committee ([JISC](#)), working closely with the [Publishers and Library/Learning Solutions \(PALS\) Metadata and Interoperability Group](#), intends to build on the success of an earlier series of projects (the PALS Metadata and Interoperability Projects), by funding a second series: **PALS II Metadata and Interoperability projects**. Details of the proposed project work and background information is set out below. The deadline for proposals is 1300hrs GMT on Tuesday 6th September 2005.
3. Proposals are invited from publishers (including aggregators) and from partnerships between publishers and Further and Higher Education institutions. In particular it is expected that suitable FE and HE partners will include JISC production services and development projects. Further details on relevant JISC services and development programmes can be found in Appendix A.
4. Total funding of up to £100,000 is available for this initiative. It is anticipated that a number of proposals with budgets of £10,000 - £15,000 will be funded.

Background

5. The JISC is a committee of the UK higher and further education funding bodies that supports the use of information communications technology (ICT) in universities and colleges. It does this by funding services, for example the SuperJANET network, and by funding and managing development programmes to explore and develop ICT solutions.
6. Over recent years the JISC, through its Information Environment (IE) activity, has been developing a strategy and architecture that will help to provide a range of services, tools and mechanisms for colleges and universities to exploit fully the value of online resources and services. It is intended to enable presentation, delivery and use of online resources in ways tailored to support individual and institutional requirements in learning, teaching and research. The vision of the JISC Information Environment is to include all types of resources and in the long term to contribute to a cross sector, rich and diverse digital environment.
7. One of the main drivers behind this strategy is the need for more seamless ways to discover quality resources. The Further and Higher Education community need to be able to discover resources in more integrated and simpler ways than currently available. Publishers and aggregators have an opportunity to exploit this market by using protocols and standards that will enable seamless searching of resources. An introductory article (Powell, 2002) explains the issues and steps that publishers can take.
8. The first round of [PALS Metadata and Interoperability projects](#) (PALS I), funded by JISC in 2003 to explore the issues surrounding the adoption of metadata standards and to encourage the widespread engagement of the publishing community in the use of appropriate metadata, worked well and made significant contribution to the resolution of some metadata and

interoperability issues. There is agreement that more collaborative projects of this kind should be funded to build on the initial work and to take forward the interoperability agenda between the JISC IE and publishers. The funded activity will include technology pilot projects and case studies.

Objectives and activity areas

9. The objectives of the PALS II Metadata and Interoperability projects are:
 - a. to explore the issues around presenting content from a range of sources, by developing **interoperability demonstrators**;
 - b. to investigate the issues surrounding the **integration of publisher-initiated standards into the JISC IE**;
 - c. to develop tools and guidelines to simplify the effective **adoption of metadata and interoperability standards**;
 - d. to take forward **rights expression standards**, for example by building implementations of them in particular contexts or by mapping between them.

10. Each of these objectives has an associated activity area described below in more detail. However, it is important to note that the activities described here do not exhaust the possible approaches that might be undertaken to address the objectives. Proposals that suggest alternative relevant work are welcome.
 - a. **Interoperability demonstrators.** The JISC IE promotes the integration of resources within different presentation contexts to support more seamless use and discovery. Proposals are invited to undertake demonstrator projects that make metadata/content available using one or more of the following mechanisms, possibly through a JISC funded portal, an HE/FE institutional/library portal, a repository service or virtual learning environment (VLE):
 - Becoming an openURL source: adopting open, context-sensitive linking, for example by using cookies or a user-preference database;
 - Becoming an openURL target by publicising their "link-to" syntax;
 - Using persistent URIs: ensuring long-term use of URLs in course reading lists, etc. by using, for example, DOI or PURL technologies;
 - Enabling distributed search of metadata using SOAP/SRW;
 - Sharing/aggregating content in a machine readable format using RSS.

It is important to note that both RSS and OAI-PMH are important standards within the JISC Information Environment, which have been explored by a number of projects funded under PALS I. Proposals that concern these two standards should build on the work accomplished by the PALS I projects, rather than duplicating it.
 - b. **Integration of publisher-initiated standards into the JISC IE.** To share resources more easily across the information supply chain, for example from publisher to library to learning environment, interoperability of metadata standards is important. Proposals are invited to implement or integrate publisher-initiated standards within the IE. In particular, proposals would be welcome that:
 - **both** implement standards such as ONIX (standards to exchange book and serials product information), DOI and Cross Ref, **and** integrate them into the IE;
 - develop mappings between existing publisher and other metadata schemas, for example, between ONIX and Dublin Core, ONIX and IMS, etc.
 - c. **Tools and guidelines to facilitate adoption of metadata and interoperability standards.** Proposals are invited to develop practical tools that will enable publishers to more easily adopt the standards and protocols that underpin the JISC IE so that their resources can be disclosed more widely. For example, one of the PALS I projects ([ROSA](#)) developed an open source RSS aggregator allowing publishers to easily set up RSS news feeds, citation alerts, or automated announcements. Another project ([Engineering Trade Information Metadata in RSS](#)) developed a primer for publishers and content providers that explains RSS and how to use it. Bidders should focus on practical

tools that can be used widely, e.g. software tools, guidelines, studies that pull together information in the area, etc.

- d. **Rights expression standards.** There are many emerging solutions to rights expression in the digital environment. Rights expression needs to be sophisticated to account for the different rights positions but it needs to be as simple as possible to be effective. Further exploration and testing is required to understand how solutions can support the publishing, access and use of content. Proposals are invited to take forward digital rights expression, for example by undertaking:
- work building on that being undertaken for EDItEUR by Rightscom (Bide and Rust, 2004), which is developing a means to embed ERMI-compliant rights expression within an ONIX record;
 - implementations of ODRL or MPEG 21/5 (for example, with specific reference to reusable content in learning objects);
 - mapping between ODRL and MPEG 21/5.

The report on rights expression languages listed in the references (Coyle, 2004) provides an overview of the topic and details on ODRL and MPEG 21/5. Links for ERMI, ODRL, and MPEG 21/5 can be found in Appendix A.

Deliverables

11. Project deliverables will include demonstrators, software/tools, mapping schemas, guidelines and case studies as appropriate for each area and as agreed with JISC.
12. Projects will also submit a final report documenting the project work and outcomes for JISC, publishers, and FE/HE institutions. Reports must be in digital format suitable for transfer to the JISC web site. Reports should be written in a style that is suitable for a national and international audience with a wide range of backgrounds.
13. All projects are expected to submit a short project plan within one month of the project start, and an interim report at the project mid-point. Further information is available in the JISC Project Management Guidelines: http://www.jisc.ac.uk/proj_manguide.html.
14. JISC will not be able to commit to the long-term delivery or maintenance of the projects beyond the agreed project period.

Dissemination and Intellectual Property

15. Project deliverables and final reports will be made widely available to the publishing and FE/HE communities. Projects will be expected to work with the JISC to help raise awareness of the projects outcomes and to encourage uptake of software/tools, schemas, guidelines, etc within the community.
16. It is desirable that any software or tools components of the deliverables are released under appropriate open source licences to ensure that they can be freely shared with the publishing and FE/HE communities. Bidders should refer to the current draft JISC Open Source Policy at http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/JISC_OSSpolicy_May2005.doc.
17. Project final reports shall become the property of HEFCE on behalf of JISC.
18. Intellectual property rights in other project deliverables such as demonstrators, software/tools, and schemas may be retained by the publisher on the condition that HEFCE (on behalf of JISC) is granted a licence to make them available at no cost to the publishing and FE/HE communities.

Bidding Eligibility

19. All projects require the participation of a publisher or collaboration of publishers (including aggregators).
20. Proposals from publishers and aggregators of all sizes and types are encouraged. For example those:
 - involved in learning materials and multimedia publishers as well as e-book, e-journals and abstracting and indexing;
 - that already expose their metadata and those yet to explore this area;
 - small and new publishers, as well as those more established.
21. In addition, projects may include partnerships with JISC services or appropriate FE/HE institutions, as appropriate to their aims. In particular, it is expected that suitable FE/HE partners will include JISC production services and development projects (see Appendix A).
22. All projects must offer benefits to UK further and higher education and be taken forward within this context.

Funding Available

23. Total funding of up to £100,000 is available for this initiative. It is anticipated that a number of proposals with budgets of £10,000 - £15,000 will be funded. This is inclusive of related VAT. Proposals requesting funding of less than £10,000 or more than £15,000 per project may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
24. Funding is made available on the condition that appropriate project deliverables (see paragraphs 10-13) are made freely available to the HE/FE community, and that these may be disseminated widely in partnership with the JISC.
25. JISC does not expect to pay for publishers' time to undertake this work. However, where there is a strong argument to support funding of publisher time, exceptions may be made.
26. The JISC funding will be available to cover expenses, travel costs and sub-contracted work. Where projects involve collaboration with JISC services and development projects, their costs must be funded in full.

Timetable and reporting

27. Proposals must be received by 1300hrs GMT on Tuesday 6th September 2005.
28. An expert evaluation panel made up of members of the [PALS Metadata and Interoperability Group](#) and JISC representatives will evaluate the proposals received and recommend funding. Further information on JISC's approach to the evaluation of bids can be found at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=bideval>.
29. It is envisaged that bidders will be notified of the outcome of the evaluation process by Monday 26th September 2005.
30. Projects are expected to be between three and ten months duration. Projects should commence work no later than October 2005 and be completed by the end of July 2006. Projects may start before October.

Management

31. JISC Project Management Guidelines indicate generally how JISC programmes and projects are managed. These can be found on the JISC web site at http://www.jisc.ac.uk/proj_manguide.html. As the PALS II projects will be short and involve modest funding, a streamlined approach will be taken to programme management, e.g. short project plan, one interim report, no requirement for a project web site, etc.

32. A Programme Manager (Christine Baldwin, Information Design & Management), will oversee the initiative on behalf of the JISC Executive.
33. Members of the PALS Metadata and Interoperability Group and appropriate JISC representatives will assist in monitoring outputs and milestones.

Proposals

34. To assist in the assessment of all proposals against a common baseline please follow the structure outlined below:
 - **Outline** - A brief outline of the nature of the work to be undertaken, project length, aims and objectives, partnership arrangements and how these will contribute to the aim of this call for proposals;
 - **Project deliverables** - A description of the intended project deliverables, and an explanation of how they will be of value to the publishing community and to JISC;
 - **Dissemination** – How project deliverables will be made widely available to the community;
 - **Intellectual property** – The publisher’s proposal for ownership of IPR for project deliverables and how this will facilitate availability to the community;
 - **Capabilities** – A summary of evidence demonstrating ability to undertake the project, for example brief statements of the project team’s interests, experience or achievements relevant to the project;
 - **Project Management** – Identification of a project manager and clarification of staffing responsibilities within the project. Where there is more than one project partner, the roles and responsibilities of each partner must be clearly identified. A brief risk assessment should be provided;
 - **Budget** – Detail of how funds will be spent under appropriate headings, for example, equipment and consumables, travel and subsistence, dissemination and consultancy, including detail of allocation to project partners where appropriate. An indication of the publisher’s contribution (e.g. staff time, overheads, equipment) should also be given. JISC does not pay overheads (e.g. heating, lighting, accommodation costs, etc) on development projects;
 - **Contact details** to whom queries may be directed.

Evaluation criteria

35. Selection will be based on the following criteria:
 - Overall impact, including the extent of benefits to the publishing and FE/HE communities;
 - Value for money, including commitment in terms of resources;
 - A convincing work plan that meets the desired outcomes.
36. The JISC will also look to ensure that an appropriate and varied group of projects and partnerships are funded as part of the initiative.
37. A general guide to bidding for JISC funds can be found at: (www.jisc.ac.uk/bidguide.html).

Terms and conditions

38. Successful bidders will be asked to sign a letter of agreement confirming terms and conditions for the project work. JISC’s standard terms and conditions for development projects can be found at http://www.jisc.ac.uk/proj_tocgrants.html, although the exact terms and conditions for these PALS II projects may vary from this standard set.
39. Successful bidders will be expected to allocate a minimum of three days in their work plan for meetings with members of the JISC Executive, key stakeholders and, where appropriate, concurrent projects working in similar areas.
40. The JISC will expect to work with the selected projects to jointly agree the work programme and deliverables.

Submission of proposals

41. Proposals of **no more than 4 single-sided A4 sheets**, typeset in Arial or a similar font at 10 point size, should be submitted, as one unbound hard copy. An electronic copy, in Word or Rich Text Format, should also be submitted via email as one file or a zipped folder. **The deadline for submissions is 1300 GMT on the Tuesday 6th September 2005.** Both hard and electronic copies should arrive by the deadline. In addition to the four page limit, proposals must include the completed cover sheet at Appendix B. CVs may be attached as appendices to the four page proposal and should be no longer than 2 sides of A4 each.
42. Faxed proposals, or late proposals in either format, will not be accepted. Bidders are advised **not to rely on first class post** for next day delivery of the hard copy.
43. If the bid exceeds the page limit guidance, evaluators will be advised to disregard information provided beyond the indicated page limit.
44. Each bid must be accompanied by letters of support from an authorised senior manager at each institution/organisation named in a bid. The support letters do not count towards the four page limit.
45. The hard copy and electronic copy of the bid including appendices and letters of support **must** be received by the deadline stated. Proposals must be sent to:

Thea O'Connor, JISC Executive, Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QD
(tel: 0117 931 7072; t.oconnor@jisc.ac.uk).
46. JISC reserves the right not to award a contract. Depending on the outcome of the marking of proposals, face to face presentations from bidders may be requested.

Further Information

47. General enquiries about this invitation to tender should be addressed to Leona Carpenter (tel: 020 7848 2820; email: l.carpenter@jisc.ac.uk).
 48. Enquiries regarding the bidding process should be addressed to Thea O'Connor (tel: 0117 931 7072; email: t.oconnor@jisc.ac.uk).
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References

- Bide, M. and Rust, G. (2004) An assessment of ERMI in the context of ONIX and requirements for recording and communicating licence terms for electronic resources. London: Rightscom. Available from: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/cts/elicensestudy/>
- Coyle, K. (2004) Rights expression languages: A report for the Library of Congress. Available from <http://www.loc.gov/standards/>
- Powell, A. (2002) 5 step guide to becoming a content provider in the JISC Information Environment. Ariadne, Issue 33. Available from <http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue33/info-environment/>

Appendix A: Further information

Useful URLs

Joint Information Systems Committee

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/>

The JISC Information Environment

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/ie>

The JISC Information Environment Architecture

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/distributed-systems/jisc-ie/arch/>

JISC Guidelines on Technical Standards

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/projman_standards.html

PALS

<http://www.palsgroup.org.uk/>

JISC PALS Metadata and Interoperability projects, 2003 (PALS I)

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_pals

JISC PALS Interoperability and Metadata Working Group FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=wg_palsinter_faq

JISC Centre for Educational Technology Interoperability Standards

<http://www.cetis.ac.uk/>

Open Digital Rights Language (ODRL)

<http://odrl.net/>

Electronic Resource Management Initiative (ERMI)

<http://www.diglib.org/standards/dlf-erm02.htm>

MPEG 21/5

<http://www.chiariglione.org/mpeg/standards/mpeg-21/mpeg-21.htm>

EDItEUR, including links to ONIX for Books and ONIX for Serials

<http://www.editeur.org/>

For an A-Z glossary, see

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=about_glossary

JISC Services (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=about_services)

Examples:

- Arts and Humanities Data Service (<http://www.ahds.ac.uk/>)
- British Universities Film and Video Council (<http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/>)
- Centre for Educational Technology Interoperability Standards (<http://www.cetis.ac.uk/>)
- Edinburgh Data and Information Access (<http://www.edina.ac.uk/>)
- Manchester Information and Associated Services (<http://www.mimas.ac.uk/>)
- Resource Discovery Network (<http://www.rdn.ac.uk/>)
- UK Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- UKOLN (<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/>)

Development programmes (<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programmesbrowse>)

Examples:

- Digital Repositories (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_digital_repositories)
- Exchange for Learning – X4L (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_x4l)
- Focus on Access to Institutional Resources – FAIR (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_fair)
- Portals (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_portals)
- Shared Services (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_shared_services)

Appendix B

Cover Sheet for Proposals *(All sections must be completed)*

Publisher Metadata & Interoperability Projects II

Name of Lead Institution/Organisation
Name of Proposed Project
List Project Partners (if any)
Full Contact Details for proposal leader Name: Institutional Position: Address: Tel: Fax: Email:
Proposal Objective (Please indicate which objective your proposal addresses using the categorisation in paragraph 8 of the Invitation to Tender)
Proposed Project Start Date
Length of Project
Total Cost to JISC over its Life
Outline Project Description