

1 November 2005

Sent To: Heads of Higher Education Institutions funded by the English, Scottish and Welsh Further and Higher Education Funding Councils and by DEL, Northern Ireland

**Of Interest To: Directors of Library and Information Services
Computer Centre Directors
HE Research Resource Owners**

JISC Circular 7/05: Summary Letter

UK LOCKSS Pilot Programme – Call for Participation

Introduction

1. LOCKSS stands for LOTS OF COPIES KEEP STUFF SAFE¹. The LOCKSS initiative is an alliance of publishers and libraries working together to provide low-cost and persistent "caches" of content licensed to libraries from publishers, both commercial and open-access, so that the libraries "own" the content they have paid for or otherwise have access to, in much the same way as in the printed environment². Without undermining the publishers' access control systems, the LOCKSS software enables institutions to collect, store, preserve, and archive authorised content locally. Over 80 libraries and 60 publishers world-wide are currently participating in the LOCKSS programme³.
2. This circular invites libraries of UK Higher Education Institutions that subscribe to JISC negotiated NESLi2⁴ agreements to participate in a UK LOCKSS Pilot Programme for e-journal archiving and preservation. The objectives of the Pilot Programme are to work with the library community to raise awareness of LOCKSS and to build up a self-sustaining base of LOCKSS users who will collectively preserve a major proportion of the e-journals in common use in the JISC community. The Pilot Programme will commence in February 2006 for a period of two years.
3. This Call for Participation is not inviting Institutions to bid for funding, but rather to receive hardware and support as a participant in the UK LOCKSS Pilot Programme. The JISC will cover travel and subsistence costs incurred through attending main programme meetings during the course of the Pilot Programme (1-2 in total). Participating institutions will however be expected to cover travel and subsistence costs incurred during such activities as attendance at training events during the Pilot, which will be held close to participating institutions where possible. Owing to the nature of the call, only responses from single institutions will be accepted.
4. The deadline for responses to participate in the Pilot Programme is 1300 hrs on **Monday 19th December 2005**. It is envisaged that bidders will be notified of the outcome of the evaluation process in the week commencing 16th January 2006.

Who is this Circular of Interest To and Why is it Important to Your Institution?

5. This Pilot Programme is of particular interest to the Directors of Library and Information Systems within your institution. Three copies of this summary letter have been provided to you to assist with the

¹ LOCKSS <http://lockss.stanford.edu/>

² LOCKSS Alliance <http://lockss.stanford.edu/alliance/alliance.htm>

³ LOCKSS participants <http://lockss.stanford.edu/about/users.htm>

⁴ NESLi2 is the UK's national initiative for the licensing of electronic journals on behalf of the higher and further education and research communities, 2003-2006. NESLi2 is a product of the JISC and underwritten by the Higher Education Funding Council for England on behalf of the Funding Bodies

dissemination process to this postholder(s).

6. The move in recent years towards provision of scholarly journals in electronic form has greatly enhanced the access and availability of scholarly publications but given the technical, legal and organisational challenges involved, how can ongoing access to licensed content be assured, especially following termination of a licence or withdrawal of the site providing it, and who should be responsible?

Scope of the Pilot Programme

7. LOCKSS requires very little on-going resource to run but help and support will be required during the initial set-up and familiarisation process. This programme aims to provide the participating libraries with practical help to get started and to develop the skills needed to run their LOCKSS nodes beyond the Pilot. The components of the programme are outlined below and will focus on satisfying the conditions that must be met for LOCKSS-based archiving of a particular e-journal title:

- the publisher has granted permission.
- the publishing platform for that particular title is supported by a LOCKSS *plug-in*.
- there is a critical mass of libraries (at least six) that agree to collect and preserve the title.

8. The programme components are:

- A Technical Support Service for LOCKSS;
- Negotiation with publishers to obtain the required permissions;
- Membership of the LOCKSS Alliance (jointly funded by JISC and CURL);
- A long-term commitment to LOCKSS collection development.

9. The outcome of the Pilot would be a functioning UK LOCKSS network and community which collectively preserves a major proportion of the e-journals in common use by the UK researchers. The experience with LOCKSS will also allow JISC and the community to make an informed assessment of the desirability of future use of LOCKSS versus alternatives that are emerging and becoming more mature.

Further Details

10. It is essential that bidders read the full circular which provides additional guidance on the kinds of activities to be undertaken during the Pilot Programme and considerable background information. The full text of this Call for Projects can be found at: http://www.jisc.ac.uk/funding_circular6_05.html

11. A **town meeting** will be held on **Friday 2nd December 2005** from 10.30am – 1.30pm at the Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London W1B 1NT, to provide more information to the community relating to this call and about the LOCKSS Pilot Programme in general. Attendance is free. To book a place at this event please register at the following URL by Monday 21st November 2005: http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=lockss_townmeeting.