

<b>Cover Sheet for Proposals</b> <i>(All sections must be completed)</i>		<b>JISC/Academy Open Educational Resources Programme</b>			
<b>Name of Initiative:</b>		<b>Open Educational Resources</b>			
<b>Programme bid to:</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Institutional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Subject area</b>
<b>Name of Lead Institution:</b> <b>The University of Nottingham</b>					
<b>Name of individual:</b>		<i>(complete for individual programme only)</i>			
<b>Subject area:</b>		<i>(complete for subject programme only)</i>			
<b>Name of Proposed Project:</b>		BERLiN			
<b>Name(s) of Project Partner(s):</b>					
<b>Full Contact Details for Primary Contact:</b>					
<b>Name:</b> Andy Beggan <b>Position:</b> IS Learning Team Leader University of Nottingham <b>Email:</b> andy.beggan@nottongham.ac.uk <b>Address:</b> Room B158, The University of Nottingham King's Meadow Campus Lenton Lane Nottingham  <b>Tel:</b> 0115 8467707 <b>Fax:</b> 0115 8468244					
<b>Project Length:</b>		<b>12 Months</b>			
<b>Start Date:</b>		<b>Project End date:</b>			
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April 2009</b>		<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2010</b>			
<b>Total Funding Requested from JISC/Academy:</b>					
		<b>£159,788</b>			
<b>Total Institutional Contributions:</b>					
		<b>£174,653</b>			
<b>Outline Project Description</b>					
This proposal describes the <b>BERLiN (Building Exchanges for Research and Learning in Nottingham)</b> project, a 12-month project to enhance and expand Nottingham's existing Open Educational Repository, u-Now and through this and the dissemination of our experiences benefit the whole UK sector. This will be achieved by providing guidance and advice from its ongoing activities, as well as its outcomes which are aimed at exploring issues raised in the wider take-up and development of an OER.					
<b>I have looked at the example FOI form at Appendix A and included an FOI form in the attached bid (Tick Box)</b>				<b>YES</b>	

<b>I have read the Funding Call and associated Terms and Conditions of Grant at Appendix B (Tick Box)</b>	<b>YES</b>	
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**FOI Withheld Information Form**

We would like JISC to consider withholding the following sections or paragraphs from disclosure, should the contents of this proposal be requested under the Freedom of Information Act, or if we are successful in our bid for funding and our project proposal is made available on JISC's website.

We acknowledge that the FOI Withheld Information Form is of indicative value only and that JISC may nevertheless be obliged to disclose this information in accordance with the requirements of the Act. We acknowledge that the final decision on disclosure rests with JISC.

<b>Section / Paragraph No.</b>	<b>Relevant exemption from disclosure under FOI</b>	<b>Justification</b>

## BERLIN

A proposal submitted to the JISC by The University of Nottingham under the Academy/JISC Open Educational Resources—Institutional Strand

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This proposal describes the **BERLiN (Building Exchanges for Research and Learning in Nottingham)** project, a 12-month project to enhance and expand Nottingham's existing Open Educational Repository, u-Now<sup>1</sup>, one of the first OERs in the UK and a member of the international Open Courseware Consortium. The University of Nottingham has a well established commitment to open access content, founded on strong support from senior management. This commitment is demonstrated in both the University's own investment in u-Now and JISC-funded projects such as SHERPA. Further, Nottingham is a member of the OpenCAST consortium and is participating in exciting new developments with Google through the EduHUB initiative. In addition, Nottingham is exploring the potential of delivering and supporting a distributed repository of e-learning resources, created and seamlessly published through an open-source e-learning development tool called Xerte Online Toolkits, XOT (see the XPERT bid under Call 12/08 Information Environment Grant Funding Call Strand A3) which will further inform this programme of work. Although a research intensive HEI (now ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in Research Fortnight by 'research power'), The University of Nottingham has taken a lead in its commitment to open access in teaching as well as research. In particular, following the release of u-Now in 2007, aimed at supporting a cultural step change in releasing open learning resources across all faculties at Nottingham, we already have more than 18 months' practical experience of supporting and developing OERs. This will feed directly into the project. Through providing guidance and advice, BERLiN will benefit the whole of the UK sector by disseminating our experiences, as well as the outcomes of the project itself which is aimed at exploring the issues raised in the wider take-up and development of an OER. The University of Nottingham is keen to do this because it is part of its culture of sharing and because it is seen as a catalyst for change in the practice of academics from all parts of the University. BERLiN will harness a wide range of individual excellence and will encourage and inspire wider adoption of the open and sharing approach. Core funding for the project will be within budget, based on a date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 and end date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

### 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 Background

The aim of the project is to progress the vision of sustainable OERs by making a significant amount of existing learning resources freely available online. As part of an institution-wide strategy for engaging with new technologies in innovative and effective ways, there are a number of features of the teaching and learning landscape at Nottingham that lend themselves to helping deliver this vision for OERs.

One of the unique elements of this bid is the combination of an existing institutional OER with Nottingham's extensive discipline coverage across its many campuses (including its international ones) "with only Cambridge and Manchester boasting more than Nottingham's 33 top-rated teaching subjects" (The Sunday Times league table for 2009).<sup>2</sup> While a blended learning approach remains the main method of delivery at the University, Nottingham's international campuses in China and Malaysia are strategic drivers for sharing a rich variety of learning resources and fostering use and reuse as well as encouraging mobility. In 2007,

<sup>1</sup> <http://unow.nottingham.ac.uk/index.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/leading-uni.php>

Nottingham published u-Now under the University's e-learning strategy (one of the first OERs in the UK) and since 2008 it has been a member of the Open Courseware Consortium. This has already given the BERLiN project team more than 18 months' practical experience in developing, deploying and supporting an OER in an HE context. In particular, Nottingham has an established technical infrastructure and workflows for supporting the publication of learning resources openly, including technical support from central e-learning and cataloguing teams, established metadata standards (UK LOM), review by an editorial board that includes participation from both the University Management Board and the IPR office, an existing public website and RSS feed with a take-down policy and individual items searchable through Google<sup>3</sup>, as well as a local content management system for hosting. In developing u-Now we recognised that not all end-users will be able to download or host materials locally; we therefore allow users to view resources and link to them directly, besides downloading them under a Creative Commons licence. In addition, the u-Now website has been developed to meet industry standards on accessibility and enables end-users to browse the entire catalogue or narrow the field under faculty or themed headings. As such, Nottingham is well placed to inform the wider community of its experience in publishing open-learning resources and particularly the barriers faced.

A second strong element of this bid is Xerte Online Toolkits<sup>4</sup> (XOT). Through a form-based interface, XOT enables non-technical teaching staff to collaborate in creating, editing and using rich, accessible e-learning content and publishing it directly to the web. XOT is the basis of an existing consortium bid XPERT (12/08 Information Environment Grant Funding Call Strand A3). The XPERT system will allow partner institutions to publish open content easily through an RSS feed, and Nottingham's content will feed into both XPERT and u-Now to ensure the widest possible distribution. The difference between these two bids is that the XPERT bid will focus on developing a framework for institutional collaboration and publishing based on the accessible e-learning development tool XOT<sup>5</sup>; whereas the BERLiN bid focuses on supporting adaptation, conversion and publication of a wide range of content from all five faculties at Nottingham, and exploiting the broad variety of formats used in our teaching and learning (including XOT, Flash, podcasts, vodcasts, websites, PDFs and other learning objects).

Thirdly, the BERLiN project will build on the substantial experience of the u-Now project and the strong institutional support for it, and as such aims to widen content submission across all five faculties. Impetus is provided through strategic support from the Vice-Chancellor, leading to a proposed commitment to publish openly a cross-section of materials throughout all disciplines at Nottingham. The e-learning strategy in general and the u-Now project in particular have been given direction and support through the University's e-Learning e-Knowledge committee, which has already overseen a number of major projects undertaken with the support of a large, well established Learning Team working with the Director of e-Learning. The u-Now project has been a major step change in the way the institution views its learning materials and has sought to make public a range of high quality materials. However, it is recognized within the BERLiN project team that, since the launch of u-Now, engagement across the University has at times been slow with around 50 items now published. This has occurred for a number of reasons, but significant amongst them have been cultural resistance and limited promotional support. Nevertheless, notable successful initiatives such as the Periodic Table of Videos<sup>6</sup> and u-Now items such as 'The Anatomists Cookbook'<sup>7</sup> – with over 1900 downloads and national press coverage<sup>8</sup> – have confirmed the

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<sup>3</sup> For example, a search in Google for 'Vitamin Village' will return 'U-NOW Resource-Vitamin Village'.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/xerte/toolkits.htm>

<sup>5</sup> XOT overview: <http://uilapech01.nottingham.ac.uk:8080/ess/echo/presentation/3f5cd8c6-9735-4ee1-83f0-7a74b1e0687e>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.periodicvideos.com/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://unow.nottingham.ac.uk/resources/resource.aspx?hid=d5e53f62-e650-927f-8ffe-f2f6f72e1381>

University leadership's strategic view of the business benefits of sharing content openly. From our own experience – and as demonstrated by the SHERPA project – the major barriers to repository development are not technical but cultural and managerial. The slow uptake demonstrated by u-Now has in part been a result of a fear of loss of academic control, concerns over IPR, and insufficient internal and external promotional support. The BERLIN project will reinvigorate this process through funding that will demonstrate the importance of this practice both nationally and internationally and that will support a programme of work in schools all across the University. This programme will encourage both the routine use and publication of learning resources for open distribution under a Creative Commons Licence. As such, the wider community will also benefit from the experience of embedding OER submission into a sustainable strategic model following an initial pilot development fostering participation from the wider academic community at Nottingham beyond the early adopters and towards mainstream deployment.

## **2.2 What we will do**

The Management Board at the University has a longstanding commitment to open access and we aim to build significantly on both this and the specific outcomes and experiences from BERLIN. The development of an OER and the wide distribution of open learning resources is a key strategic driver. The University of Nottingham is already a member of the Open Courseware Consortium and has signed up to Jorum. Through the BERLIN project, we will explore the integration of the open learning resources within u-Now with wider distribution mechanisms such as JorumOpen, MERLOT and the proposed XPERT project. In essence there are three major elements to the proposed work.

First, the cultural change issues will need to be addressed. An exploration of the barriers preventing adoption will be a key element of this project especially identification of the issues involved and strategies for overcoming them. Areas will include the fear of loss of control, the potential for competitors seeing what is being taught, the quality controls required and the extent to which as many forms as possible of delivery and learning experience can be represented. The outcomes will be documented in a project report, with regular communication with the wider community through a project wiki/blog. In addition, support materials will be published online offering advice and support on (but not limited to) technical support; cultural barriers and advocacy; as well as organisational issues such as copyright, IPR and quality control mechanisms utilised at Nottingham.

Secondly, a review of the existing processes and procedures for handling and maintaining the delivered materials will be necessary, particularly adaptation of current practices for deployment on an institutional scale. A number of key areas will be examined including the content management system requirements, the policies for IPR, existing metadata standards employed, internal workflows, as well as technical and cultural barriers to adoption. Of particular importance is the speed and management of resources passing from the academic to the online environment, so that access to materials is quick, flexible and efficient. Support and advice from JISC will be welcomed, in particular to ensure ongoing developments are consistent within the OER programme specifically and with the sector as a whole.

Finally, the integration of materials created through Nottingham's open source e-learning development tool, XOT into electronic formats that lend themselves to being housed on the OER platform u-Now will be examined. Blended learning remains the dominant e-learning teaching approach at Nottingham, with only a handful of postgraduate courses being purely online. The wide range of teaching subject areas ensures broad representative coverage, and the existing routine use of learning resource synopsis within u-Now supports reuse

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<sup>8</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/nottinghamshire/7335324.stm>

outside their original context. However, this also means that it is difficult for Nottingham to define items deposited in u-Now in terms of credits awarded as they vary greatly in terms of scope and support provided.

In summary the deliverables of the project are:

- A publicly-available report on the review of current OER procedures at Nottingham, seeking advice from JISC to ensure ongoing developments is consistent with the sector as a whole.
- The expansion of the University's OER (u-Now) to cover content across all five faculties.
- The integration of the u-Now OER with wider distribution mechanisms such as JorumOpen, MERLOT and the proposed XPERT project. This could include the use of RSS (u-Now already disseminates its open resources through the Open Courseware Consortium in this way) or, if feasible, the technical integration of the systems involved.
- A final project report on outcomes of the BERLiN project including the barriers faced in the wider adoption of OERs across the institution, the issues involved and potential strategies for overcoming them.
- Dissemination to the wider community through a project wiki/blog. In addition, support materials will be published online offering advice and support on technical support; cultural barriers and advocacy; as well as organisational issues such as copyright, IPR and quality control mechanisms utilised at Nottingham.
- Other dissemination outputs, including professional publications and conference papers.

### **2.3 How we will do it**

The project will be managed within the Nottingham Information Services Connected Campus initiative<sup>9</sup>. This provides a programme and project management framework and governance structure based on industry standards such as Prince2. A key element will be strong support from the University Management Board and the five faculties. Oversight will be through the Information Services Strategy Board (ISSB) because the project will be part of Connected Campus. Regular updates will also be provided to Learning and Teaching Committee. There will be an institutional sponsor from Management Board and the current u-Now editorial board will be strengthened with additional external input. Clear processes for copyright clearance will be provided through Research and Innovation Services (RIS) within the University giving the project team unambiguous direction on what is acceptable.

The project team will be led by a project manager with technical support from Learning Technologists (1.05 FTE) based within the central e-learning support team at Nottingham. The team will also include two new posts – a BERLiN (Open Learning) advocate and a Technical Support Officer – for enhanced support for advocacy, metadata cataloguing, copyright clearance and technical assistance to ensure project momentum. Other contributions will be made by academic SMEs (1.0 FTE) from across the five faculties at Nottingham to support learning content review and update. Strategic oversight of the project will be provided by two co directors, with academic representation provided by the Director of Teaching and Learning and repository guidance and development support provided by the Director of Research and Learning Resources at Nottingham.

XOT will be utilised to support the repurposing of existing activities in ways that will allow for online delivery. In addition, significant use will be made of the existing expertise within the Learning Team and the e-learning community. (The latter is drawn from both academic and

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<sup>9</sup> Connected Campus UCISA best practice award 2008  
<http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/members/awards/bestpractice.aspx>

non-academic colleagues across the University.) A major focus of the current institutional e-learning strategy is to make the creation of e-learning materials simpler and less time-consuming for non-technical academics. In short, we are attempting to reduce the barriers to the adoption of e-learning. To this end, emphasis will be placed on using XOT as well as drawing on the materials created so far under the directed projects within the e-learning strategy remit. Included here will be podcasts, video capture of lectures, RLOs and other electronic forms of delivery.

Additionally, there is a programme of work in progress that is repurposing materials from a back catalogue of over 100 learning objects (written mainly in Authorware), which are still in use by academic staff. There are a number of University-wide learning materials, created for the benefit of our students more generally and not linked to any specific course (for example the existing 'Pathway 2 Information: Citing References'<sup>10</sup> module on u-Now); the potential identification of suitable content will provide additional materials for publishing openly. Central Learning Technologist staff time allocated to these projects is done so on the understanding that the materials developed will be submitted to u-Now. Given existing materials and this repurposing we can begin exploring mechanisms for publishing content on u-Now and other sites from April 2009 and thus provide an immediate impetus to the project.

#### **2.4 Publicity and usage**

As part of the u-Now project, usage data for material deposited is currently tracked using both Web Trends (a web analytics system tracking hits on the site) as well as individual downloads of items from the Content Management System (Equella). This data will be made available to JISC to help inform longer term programme development.

#### **2.5 What we need**

To support the BERLiN project, existing support teams (e-learning and cataloguing and metadata) at Nottingham will be bolstered through the recruitment or secondment of two new posts. As discussed, a BERLiN (Open Learning) advocate and a Technical Support Officer will provide local awareness raising, academic liaison, advocacy (including nationally), content submission, dissemination and evaluation support. This will include active marketing across all five faculties at Nottingham of the benefits of OERs nationally and internationally, building on the progress made to date through the u-Now initiative and helping to establish a cultural change towards the routine publishing of learning materials openly. Support from the funding council for the BERLiN project will also highlight at Nottingham the growing importance of OERs nationally and internationally and encourage adoption more widely.

### **3. PROJECT PLAN**

The University of Nottingham proposes to manage the BERLiN project under the embedded institutional Connected Campus project management framework<sup>11</sup>. To carry out the work of the project, the following Work Packages are planned:

#### **Work Package 1 - Project Management**

*Tasks: Project management, report writing, finances, QA, evaluation*

*Major Deliverables: Project plan, progress reports, final report*

*Relative resource: 10% Project Months : 1–12*

The project management team at The University of Nottingham will carry out the normal project management tasks (managed within the Connected Campus methodology; co-

<sup>10</sup> <http://unow.nottingham.ac.uk/resources/resource.aspx?hid=d273fece-021a-e3f8-d27a-8d7907946f9c>

<sup>11</sup> Connected Campus UCISA best practice award 2008  
<http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/members/awards/bestpractice.aspx>

ordinate work packages; collate and sign-off on reports and deliverables; and direct and co-ordinate advocacy work.

The Project will seek to work with the JISC in establishing key performance indicators and measurable benefits. The Project will negotiate with JISC regarding the schedule and timings of release of deliverables and materials to integrate with other projects, initiatives and community needs.

Formative evaluation will be by means of quarterly project review of activities and outputs. The project will take part in the wider JISC evaluation of the Programme. Part of the project management tasks will be the production of an Exit and Continuation Strategy. This will clearly identify those activities which should terminate with project closure and those which need to be continued or enhanced, together with suggested ways in which this may happen.

### **Work package 2 – Dissemination external**

*Tasks: Communications and dissemination structures, document and output templates etc*

*Major Deliverables: website - wiki - email list - templates-presentations and publications*

*Relative resource: 10% Project Months : 1–12*

The support infrastructure for dissemination will be developed during the initial stages of the project and maintained through the project's life. Features will include the development of the existing u-Now website to include interfacing with JorumOpen; attendance at and presentation to conferences nationally (as well as internationally where appropriate); a workshop for relevant technology/information professionals to discuss lessons learned and exchange experiences, including external participation and guest speakers; and a wiki/blog to encourage community building; publications in the professional literature. In addition, we intend to align this project in Europe through Nottingham's membership of the DRIVER consortium<sup>12</sup>.

### **Work Package 3 – Needs analysis (u-Now evaluation)**

*Tasks: Institutional requirements, workflows, metadata standards and preservation policy*

*Major Deliverables: Establish u-Now workflows and integration into a release environment*

*Relative resource: 5% Project Months: 1–2*

During the initial start-up period of the BERLiN project, the project team will review the existing policies and procedures in place at Nottingham that were developed for supporting the u-Now initiative. Topics will include local awareness of u-Now and internal barriers which have to date limited submission of material to it. The project team will also seek advice from JISC to ensure requirements and ongoing developments are consistent within the OER programme specifically and the sector as a whole.

### **Work Package 4 – Enhancement of existing infrastructure & publishing procedures**

*Tasks: Enhanced u-Now workflow and submission procedures*

*Major Deliverables: u-Now v2.0*

*Relative resource: 5% Project Months: 3–6*

Following the outcomes of Work Package 3, a programme of work to integrate proposed changes to current policies and procedures will be explored. This will include, as appropriate, redevelopment of the u-Now website and documentation of policies for wider community awareness.

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<sup>12</sup> DRIVER homepage: <http://www.driver-repository.eu/>

### **Work Package 5 – Integrate XOT with u-Now/JorumOpen**

*Tasks: Advice and support from XOT development team, rollout and local user engagement*

*Major Deliverables: Integration of local XOT content under u-Now*

*Relative resource: 5% Project Months : 3–6*

As noted, Nottingham has developed a powerful open source browser-based e-learning development tool called Xerte Online Toolkits (XOT). Through a form-based interface this enables non-technical teaching staff to create, edit and share rich, accessible e-learning content and then publish it directly to the web. All content published as 'publicly available' within XOT can easily be added to a central RSS feed at the site for wider dissemination. As part of the BERLiN project, we will explore issues around the integration of content published openly through XOT with more general institutional repositories such as u-Now and national initiatives such as JorumOpen. This will include advice on policies and procedures for wider community awareness.

### **Work Package 6 – Open resource advocacy (Dissemination internal)**

*Tasks: Local awareness raising and promotion*

*Major Deliverables: Identification of open content submission across all five faculties*

*Relative resource: 30% Project Months : 1–12*

Local awareness raising and promotion will be an essential component of this project, with events to publicise and promote academic engagement with open learning content. Our own experience suggests that – as previously mentioned – the major barriers to repository development are not technical but cultural and managerial. Dedicated advocacy will therefore promote the benefits of open content locally and help address concerns raised. Issues and strategies identified will be documented under the project management activities and made available to the wider HE/FE community.

### **Work Package 7 – Open resource conversion & publishing**

*Tasks: Open content preparation and publication*

*Major Deliverables: Open content published under u-Now*

*Relative resource: 30% Project Months : 1–12*

It is a key objective of the BERLiN project to publish a wide variety of high quality open-learning content across all faculties within the University, including the international campuses in China and Malaysia, which are strategic drivers for the adoption of open content to foster use and reuse as well as encouraging mobility. To this end, it is proposed that a number of ongoing initiatives be drawn together and published through u-Now. These include (but are not limited to):

- Content generated by Xerte Online Toolkits.
- The review and updating of the (mainly) Authorware back catalogue (over 100 learning objects identified)
- Identification of suitable materials taught across wide parts of the University as service subjects (meaning material that important to the main subject but not part of it).
- Automated lecture capture systems and podcasts, including content submitted through Google's EduHub initiative.
- Identified bespoke learning content in various formats, including PDF, Flash and HTML.

It will be a major stream of work to collate these materials, ensure appropriate metadata standards are met, seek copyright approval (where appropriate), u-Now editorial board review and publication. It is anticipated that this will be a major outcome of the BERLiN

project and ensure the open availability of learning materials across Nottingham's extensive discipline coverage for the wider JISC community and beyond.

### **Work Package 8 - Project monitoring and evaluation**

*Tasks: Review of activities, advice and consultancy, knowledge sharing with wider community*

*Major Deliverables: Review of outputs, with findings published within projects reports and project wiki*

*Relative resource: 5%    Project Months : 1–12*

To ensure the Project is meeting core objectives, regular review meetings will be held to evaluate progress against project aims. Issues, barriers and successes will be fully documented and feed directly into the outcomes of the project. In addition, support from the JISC will be sought to ensure wider community involvement with the outcomes of the project and advice on direction of evaluation activities including focus groups, user surveys, usability testing, web server log analysis and benchmarking.

#### **3.1 Risks**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Contingency</b>
Recruitment difficulties	Medium	Low	Existing institutional staff will be re-assigned. Some activities outsourced
Lack of engagement of expert associates	Medium	Low	Involve expert associates in experts panel, liaise with appropriate JISC service managers
Lack of engagement from institutional authors	Low	Low	Local awareness raising and promotional events, coupled with senior support should help foster adoption.
Expert associates charge high consultancy rates	Medium	Medium	Take advantage of wide circle of contacts for alternate experts. Take work in-house
Project is over-ambitious in scope	Medium	Low	Realistic scope in work plan: liaison with JISC and appropriate advisory committees

#### **3.2 Intellectual Property**

The IPR of learning resources generated as part of the BERLiN project will remain with the content authors/The University of Nottingham. However, all results will be disseminated to the wider HE and FE community as part of project work and with the expectation that it will be used and modified freely by others under an appropriate licence such as Creative Commons.

#### **3.3 Sustainability**

It is a particular strength of this bid that Nottingham has already made a demonstrable commitment to OER publication through u-Now, as well as wider commitment to open access generally through JISC funded projects such as SHERPA. The development of u-Now represents an existing significant contribution to OER development in the UK, and is part of the University's strategic plan of delivering the global University. In the longer term, the University has made a commitment for continued investment in technology-enhanced learning which will continue to have a direct effect on u-Now through projects such as XOT and participation within Google's EduHub.



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## 6 Key Personnel

### 6.1 University of Nottingham

*Project Co-Director.* Christopher Pressler is Director of Research and Learning Resources at The University of Nottingham. He is also Director of Intute: Health and Life Sciences, and Co-Director of SHERPA, both based at The University of Nottingham. Among other positions, Christopher is a member of the JISC Repositories and Preservation Advisory Group, the SCONUL International Relations Advisory Group and Chair of the RLUK Research Communications Think Tank. He is Co-Director of DART-Europe, the European portal to eTheses, a member of the European DRIVER Steering Committee and a member of the SPARC Europe Board. Christopher is Chair of the Digital Resources for the Humanities and Arts Conference and has a wide interest in the digital humanities. Christopher's previous professional experience has been at University College London, JISC, Senate House Library and at Dartington College of Arts.

*Project Co-Director.* Wyn Morgan is Director of Teaching and Learning at the University of Nottingham as well as Associate Professor in the School of Economics. In the former senior-ranking role he is tasked with the promotion and dissemination of good practice in teaching and learning with a particular emphasis on technology enabled learning. He has overseen the delivery of the e-learning strategy for the University including the establishment of the u-Now site. Dissemination roles including working closely with academic schools, editing the University's teaching and learning magazine "The Hub", and giving papers at key conferences in e-learning and teaching and learning. Wyn is also an Associate Director of the Integrative Learning CETL based at Nottingham and is an Associate Director of the HEA Economics Network based in Bristol. In his School, he has taken the role of Teaching Quality Officer and used new technologies in his teaching including podcasts and video capture.

*Project Manager.* Andy Beggan manages the IS Learning Team at the University. Andy has successfully project managed a number of high profile institutional e-learning projects, including the University Open Courseware initiative (U-Now), e-assessment and e-learning community support projects and podcasting service. In addition, Andy has provided strategic direction to a range of IS Learning Team activities including Xerte and the One-Stop-Language-Shop (shortlisted for the THE ICT innovation awards 2008). Before joining The University of Nottingham, Andy managed and worked within e-learning development teams across a wide range of sectors for over 15 years.

*XOT Project Developer:* Pat Lockley is as a learning support development officer in The University of Nottingham IS Learning Team. Pat's involvement with e-learning started in the HE/FE sector, where he worked in an advisory role to VLE implementation and online assessment systems. At the University of Nottingham, Pat has developed several successful large web projects, including El@n, Community @ Nottingham and Xerte Online Toolkits.

*Learning Technologist:* John Horton is a Senior Learning Applications Developer in the Learning Team. During fifteen years at Nottingham, he has played a major part in establishing the role of e-learning as a practical and desired method of teaching across all the University and in developing the reputation of the Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) Group and its successor, the Learning Team.

*u-Now developer:* Yijun Xue is a software developer responsible for de-learning systems development within the IS Learning Team. Yijun's background includes programming on either Linux/php/java or Microsoft/windows/.net, working on both frontend website development and backend Perl/ruby script and database design. Yijun is currently lead support on the u-Now website.

*BERLiN (Open Learning) advocate & Technical Support Officer:* To be recruited.

## 5. Letters of support

AHD/AB/JC



The University of  
**Nottingham**

alan.dodson@nottingham.ac.uk

OER Institutional Bid  
Northavon House  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol  
BS16 1QD

Institute of Engineering  
Surveying and Space Geodesy

University Park  
Nottingham  
NG7 2RD

Tel: +44 (0) 115 951 3921  
Fax: +44 (0) 115 951 3879  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/iesng](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/iesng)

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and  
Professor of Geodesy  
Professor Alan H Dodson

03 March 2009

Dear Panel

This letter is to confirm institutional support for the BERLIN proposal as submitted to JISC.

The University has developed U-Now as a means of enabling open access to a range of teaching and learning materials and has two years of experience with this approach to openness. Thus there has already been a considerable investment in the project and we have been delighted to work with other partners, such as the OpenCourseware Consortium, in promoting this idea. We believe that the support of JISC would enable the University to extend and deepen the scale of U-Now and ensure greater added value for the wider HE community as a consequence.

The University of Nottingham believes in an open access approach to teaching and learning materials and looks forward to the opportunity to share our considerable experience in this area with others in the community.

I hope you will find our proposal worthy of funding.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Alan Dodson**  
**Pro-Vice Chancellor (Information Services)**