

# Graduate developer

## Role brief

<b>Directorate</b>	Digital resources
<b>Role</b>	Graduate developer
<b>Base location</b>	Bristol
<b>Grade</b>	Grade D
<b>Level</b>	Level 13
<b>Job Family</b>	IT software development and databases
<b>Date</b>	December 2016
<b>Reports to</b>	Open access technical project manager / team leader
<b>Responsible for</b>	Development and support of software based services in the digital services directorate

## 1. Background

Jisc is the UK higher, further education and skills sectors' not-for-profit organisation for digital services and solutions.

We:

- Operate **shared digital infrastructure and services**
- Negotiate **sector-wide deals** with IT vendors and commercial publishers, and
- Provide trusted **advice and practical assistance** for universities, colleges and learning providers.

This is a post in the scholarly communications open access (OA) support group, within the digital resources directorate that delivers a service that support the procurement, management, discovery and use of content for UK research and education. Our work areas are: open access support, library support and analytics services, digital content, resource discovery, and further education and skills.

The Jisc open access (OA) development team builds and supports applications that underpin Jisc's open access services. The goal is to make the scholarly outputs of public and charity-funded academic research freely available to all. For example, providing free access to research articles that previously were available only on a paid subscription basis, and making such articles easy to discover. These services include:

- [Publications router](#)
- [Monitor Local and Monitor UK](#)
- [ORCID support](#)

The team manages the workload using an Agile methodology and a toolchain that deploys to servers in a cloud environment. The technologies vary across services, but include Javascript, AngularJS, Python, Grails, Hibernate, PHP, Symfony, Elasticsearch, MySQL and more. While team members have particular areas of focus, we encourage broadening of skills and foster the ability to work across different services, so the opportunities for developing skills will be substantial.

## 2. Purpose and scope

The purpose of the role is to contribute to the development and maintenance of Jisc's scholarly communication services with a particular focus on:

- Building / extending applications in response to specific use cases within the context of an agreed architecture and development approach
- Ensuring that technical solutions adhere to best practice and are robust, extensible and standards compliant
- Working collaboratively with colleagues

The graduate developer will contribute to the design, development, implementation and support of Jisc scholarly communications services and projects. These services play a critical role in the move to open access for academic research publications, in line with UK government policy; as such they are high profile and very well used by academics and others in universities.

The work will take place in line with agreed service level agreements and operational/development plans, and in the context of a cross-service technical and data architecture incorporating scholarly communications, library shared services and resource discovery services.

The graduate developer reports to the OA development team leader.

## 3. Key accountabilities and role outputs

Responsibilities are expected to be developed and finalised over time and will include but will not be restricted to:

- Participate in the development of technical solutions that meet the requirements of new and evolving services in the context of an agreed project or operational plan and any associated service level agreement (SLA)
- Assist with translating user requirements into technical specifications, test cases and subsequently into program code (with guidance and support from senior developers)
- Participate in quality reviews and undertake testing as needed or directed
- Creation of technical and user documentation for both internal and external consumption
- Ensure that technical deliverables meet required quality standards and that program code is well structured and commented in line with best practice
- Raise risks and issues as they arise using the defined processes
- Assist with responding to customer support queries in a professional manner
- Contribute to technical discussions and decision making
- Provide reports or briefs to project manager on progress and other aspects of development work
- Adhere to the OA development team practices and use the defined and recommended tools
- Attend conferences and workshops as required
- Participate in cross-service activities and projects as required
- Undertake other duties commensurate with the post as they arise

## 4. Skills, knowledge and experience

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First degree in computing or equivalent formal training or relevant experience in an equivalent role</li> </ul>	
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing applications in a Unix/Linux environment</li> <li>• Use of GIT or equivalent source code management tool</li> <li>• Experiencing in designing and delivering work or projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing web applications using LAMP stack</li> <li>• Database development</li> <li>• Continuous integration tool-chain.</li> <li>• Agile methodology</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good working knowledge of at least one of these languages Javascript, Python, Java</li> <li>• Working knowledge of a database such as MySQL, Elasticsearch, NoSQL</li> <li>• An understanding of RESTful web services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of web server software such as Apache Tomcat or NGINX</li> <li>• An understanding of web accessibility and usability issues</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good communication skills, written and verbal, including ability to communicate clearly with both technical and non-technical people</li> <li>• Ability to write concise and clear technical documentation and reports</li> <li>• Analysis and problem solving</li> <li>• Ability and willingness to quickly learn new skills on the job</li> <li>• Ability to work both in a team, and independently using judgment, initiative and negotiation skills</li> <li>• Ability to prioritise on workload</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data analysis / data modelling</li> <li>• Presentation skills</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attention to detail, quality focussed, and adherence to standards</li> <li>• Willingness to engage with the user community</li> <li>• Willingness to travel with overnight stays where needed</li> </ul>	

## 5. Key contacts

- OA development team leader
- Lead developer
- Developers across Jisc
- Service managers
- Customers/users of Jisc services
- Jisc partners and collaborators

### **Important additional information**

The OA development team leader will discuss all elements of the role brief with the appointee on appointment and after six months, recognising that some elements may need changing over time to align with business need.

The information contained within this role brief is provided for guidance, is not contractual, and is not an exhaustive list of all accountabilities that the post holder may have.

As Jisc is a geographically dispersed organisation there will be a requirement to travel, from time to time, to other sites in support of business delivery.