Implementation of the Open Access Policy for a post- 2014 REF: Extracts from a Progress report prepared by Research Consulting for Jisc

May 2015

Perceptions of Jisc projects and services

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Many of the issues identified in this report are well known to Jisc staff, and are actively being addressed through existing Jisc projects and services. Institutional attendees were asked to provide feedback on these projects and services within the workshop, and to identify which ones they expected to be of most value in supporting compliance with the REF OA policy.

Projects and services directly supporting REF compliance

The SHERPA services, Publications Router and RIOXX were consistently identified as having the greatest potential to support REF compliance. Representative comments on these services included the following:

- **SHERPA** – Perceived as valuable to both authors and administrators, with some exceptions, but often used only as a shortcut to finding the publisher policy. Data is needed in machine-readable, downloadable form, and institutions are keen to see a SHERPA/REF tool which is explicitly endorsed by HEFCE.
- **Publications Router** – Institutions are very positive about the idea, but sceptical as to whether it will work in practice. They believe the priorities should be to provide notification of article acceptance, rather than full-texts, and to develop better linkages with subject repositories. Library staff would only expect to use data from Router as a back-up and cross-check to supplement internal processes for the foreseeable future.
- **RIOXX/CASRAI** – Institutions are broadly happy with the RIOXX application profile itself, and can see its value, but are concerned over how quickly it can be implemented in their systems, due to a reliance on third party suppliers and/or a lack of in-house technical expertise. Most considered RIOXX and CASRAI to be similar in nature and grouped them together in discussions, hence this is reflected here.

Attendees at three workshops also noted the past Repository Support Project as being of immense value to institutions ('one of the most useful Jisc services there has ever been'), with smaller institutions in particular expressing a desire for more support and assistance with the installation of plug-ins and the future development of institutional repositories.

Projects and services indirectly supporting REF compliance

Other initiatives which it was felt could indirectly support REF compliance included:

- **Jisc-ARMA ORCID pilots/ORCID national consortium agreement** – It is widely recognised that ORCID has the potential to enable major improvements in interoperability in the longer term.
- **IRUS-UK** – IRUS-UK was noted by a minority of individuals as providing a valuable evidence base to demonstrate the usage of repository deposits.
- **Jisc Collections** – Institutions recognised the important role played by Jisc Collections in negotiating with publishers, and the opportunity this provided to put pressure on them to assist with REF compliance. The recent publication by Jisc of the document 'Open Access compliance: how publishers can help' was highlighted as a particularly valuable initiative in this regard.
- **CORE** – Some institutions see potential for CORE to support REF compliance, drawing parallels with its role in ensuring OPENAIRE compliance, and also raised the possibility of back-population of metadata into institutional repositories.
- **Open access good practice initiative** – The support of the open access pathfinder institutions was crucial to the delivery of this review, and the OA good practice initiative has a valuable role to play in sharing ideas and disseminating good practice across the sector.

Projects and services not seen as supporting REF compliance

Institutions did not see any immediate linkage between the total cost of ownership (TCOO) and Monitor projects and REF compliance, with both projects seen as primarily supporting gold OA.