2008

People Profile: Maggie Jones

Editor
needs across the UK Higher/Further Education community. The comparative archiving solutions bid was won by a consortium led by Terry Morrow (Tee Em Consulting), and including Julia Chruszcz (Top Class Computer Technologies Ltd); Neil Beagrie and Maggie Jones (Charles Beagrie Ltd). The latter study1 is the main subject of this article, though there are of course some parallels with the LOCKSS evaluation as well.

What had emerged from earlier work, in particular the ARL/CLIR survey, was a much more encouraging outlook for librarians and publishers in terms of viable options for archiving e-journals which could provide the necessary reassurance to libraries without threatening publishers. There is also a gradually clearing picture of the e-journal archiving landscape and what options are available that can meet some if not all of the needs of libraries and their clientele. As well as uncertainty about the potential role of legal deposit and open access repositories, previously referred to, some confusion has arisen through the inevitable ambiguities of terminology in such a complex environment where terms such as “perpetual access,” “archiving,” and “preservation” are often used interchangeably.

The ITT for the comparative e-journal archiving study outlined two main practical outcomes. One was for a report that “will be published for wide use by institutions to inform policy and investment in e-journal archiving solutions.” The report is also intended to “inform negotiations undertaken by JISC Collections and NESLIL2 when seeking publishers’ compliance to deposit content with at least one e-journal archiving solution.”

Scenarios

Given the need to provide guidance on decision making, the study team agreed very early on that a key requirement of the study would be an invitation-only workshop designed to test assumptions and gain input into the needs of subject librarians and other stakeholders in the information chain. Preparations for the workshop included a discussion paper which depicted four scenarios likely to be of relevance to e-journal archiving options. These were:

1. Cancellation of an e-journal title by a library
2. E-Journal is no longer available from a publisher [title discontinued or sold to another publisher]
3. Publisher has ceased operation and access to their e-journal servers is no longer possible.
4. Catastrophic failure of publisher’s operations/servers.

E-journal Archiving Solutions

Six trusted e-journal archiving solutions were selected as having excellent credentials for the task and being potentially capable of meeting UK libraries’ requirements. They were all assessed against the four scenarios outlined above.

1. LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe)3 enables participating libraries to collect, store, preserve and provide access to their own local copies of content to which they have subscribed. The LOCKSS system was one of two very different e-journal archiving approaches (the other being what is now known as Portico) supported by the Mellon Foundation following the conclusion of seven e-journal archiving projects in 2002. LOCKSS introduced the LOCKSS Alliance as a membership organisation in 2005. It is well known in the UK, particularly since the JISC funded two-year pilot test of using LOCKSS in 30 UK institutions. Libraries who want control over the material they subscribe to in much the same way as they have for print journals are drawn to this option.

2. CLOCKSS “Controlled LOCKSS,”4 launched in 2002. A not-for-profit collaboration between libraries and publishers, it is a dark archive based on the LOCKSS software in which a limited number of libraries take on a preservation role on behalf of a broader community. There were 11 participating publishers and 7 libraries in the two year pilot programme, which was concluding as the report was being written. It has subsequently been formally moved from pilot to operational status. The

University of Edinburgh is one of the founding members of CLOCKSS and the inclusion of some of the largest STM publishers in the programme makes this an attractive option for some UK libraries.

3. Portico5 is the second approach to e-journal archiving supported by the Mellon Foundation. It was launched as an independent organization in 2005, though it has been in planning and preparation since 2002 under the auspices of ITHAKA. Designed specifically as a third party service for scholarly e-journals, it provides insurance to libraries that the e-journal content they have subscribed to will be preserved for the long-term. A number of UK institutions have subscribed to Portico and others have signalled they are considering it. LOCKSS and Portico are the two most well known e-journal archiving solutions in the UK and the fact that they are very different is likely to be seen as a plus by many rather than a negative, especially at this relatively early stage.

4. The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) is the national library of the Netherlands and operates e-Depot,6 its archive for the Dutch national deposit collection of electronic publications and other e-content (e.g., Dutch newspapers). The

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