

Newsletter No 5 -- July 2006

The e-Framework for Education and Research is a joint initiative of JISC (UK) and DEST (Australia).

For any questions or proposed input into future newsletters please email The Editor.

New Partners

June 15, 2006: At a meeting in London of the JISC-DEST Cooperation Partnership Board, the New Zealand Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Netherlands SURF Foundation were formally welcomed as Partners in the e-Framework Initiative.

Murray Leach, representing the MoE, commented that "Joining the initiative signals a timely and strategic investment for New Zealand. Having just completed the development of an ICT Strategic Framework for Education, it is now time to focus upon building infrastructure using knowledge gained from participation in e-Framework activities."

Bas Cordewener, representing SURF, said "We in the Netherlands welcome the collaborative partnership because it will help us take advantage of broad global alliances to develop best of breed solutions based on service oriented approaches for national and international purposes."

Speaking on behalf of the JISC-DEST Cooperation Partnership Board, Sarah Porter said "We are particularly pleased to welcome colleagues from SURF and the New Zealand Ministry of Education to assist us in what we realise is an ambitious venture. Both SURF and the MoE have impressive records in developing IT solutions for education and information environments. Their experience will provide valuable perspectives in developing the e-Framework."

Cooperation Agreement with IMS Global Learning Consortium

June 22, 2006, Indianapolis, USA: A Cooperation Agreement between the IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS) and the e-Framework for Education and Research Initiative (the e-Framework) was announced at the IMS annual members' meeting. The principal goal of the Cooperation Agreement is to work together towards a shared vision of service enabled infrastructures for Higher Education.

Outputs from the e-Framework will be important to the deliberations of IMS in terms of further standardization initiatives and feedback from IMS industry members will assist greatly in developing the e-Framework.

Rob Abel, Chief Executive Officer of IMS said, "IMS warmly welcomes this close

collaboration with the e-Framework initiative. Together, IMS and the e-Framework initiative will spearhead the development of service oriented approaches for the global education industry."

Neil McLean, a Board member of the JISC-DEST e-Framework Initiative, remarked "This heralds an important milestone in the evolution of the e-Framework in that it harnesses the energy and insights of a vibrant IMS community. There is a will to succeed on both sides and this augers well for meeting the challenges of developing the next phase of e-learning and e-research infrastructure."

- High performance computing to allow analysis, modelling and simulation; and
- High quality network access through high capacity bandwidth to permit interaction with diverse data and computing resources.

RUBRIC Institutional Repository trials

The [RUBRIC Project Partners](#) are presently engaged in first round Repository trials of [DSpace](#), [Fez](#) and [VITAL](#). The goal for all RUBRIC Partners is to have a [functional and sustainable](#) Institutional Repository (IR) in place by the end of 2006. While the main focus to this point has been on Open Access research outputs in PDF format, other specialised and unique collections held by the RUBRIC Partners will be examined for inclusion in the coming months.

The RUBRIC Central technical team, based at the [University of Southern Queensland](#), is providing project partners essential support in the form of initial IR hosting, training and evaluation services. RUBRIC Central is also focused on the critical area of interoperability, testing data import and export between the IRs on trial and from other systems such as [Proquest's Digital Commons](#), [GNU ePrints](#) and [ADT](#). RUBRIC Partners are also interested in testing the migration of data from a range of other sources at their institutions.

Web Service Addressing a W3C Recommendation

9 May 2006 -- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) announced today that Web Services Addressing 1.0 - consisting of the Core specification and the SOAP Binding - is a W3C Recommendation. Industry now has a reliable, proven interoperable standard to address Web services messages.

"Web Services Addressing 1.0 provides a mechanism to developers on how to address objects for Web services applications," explained Philippe Le Hégarret, W3C Architecture Domain Leader. "It extends the capabilities of Web services by enabling asynchronous message exchanges, and allowing more than two services to interact."

[Read More](#)

Agility and Composability, not just Reusability

Concepts that are critical to the success or otherwise of Service Oriented Architectures (SOA) include notions of agility and composability, according to

Jason Bloomberg in a recent ZapThink article. Basically, the argument runs that reusability (that term that was hot in the era when "learning objects" looked so promising) is an overdone concept and not the ultimate goal in SOA.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Long-term Repositories: Taking the Shock out of the Future -- Canberra, August 31 - September 01

This two-day forum on PREMIS (Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies) and the Trusted Digital Repositories Methodology is hosted by the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (APSR) in association with the National Library of Australia. Day One will be a practical exploration of the issues associated with the implementation of a preservation metadata scheme based on the PREMIS model. Discussion will include practical aspects of preservation life-cycle management, repository functionality and architecture, tools and technologies to support data acquisition, automation and workflows. Day Two will consider the RLG-NARA Audit Checklist for Certifying Digital Repositories.

Further details can be found at <http://www.apsr.edu.au/longterm/>

QUESTnet -- Coolumb, July 11-14

Queensland Education, Science and Technology Network (QUESTnet) is the Queensland regional component of the Australian Academic and Research Network ([AARNet](#)).

The [QUESTnet](#) conference is an annual event aimed at network technologists and those IT&T professionals who work closely with network technology. A key focus of the event is to provide an opportunity for delegates to develop their professional and technical knowledge and gain an appreciation of the key strategic issues for network development.

Topics at this year's event include:

- Enabling e-Research through next generation networks
- Federated middleware architectures (Grid computing, Identity and Access Management, repositories, etc)
- Disruptive technologies (podcasting, peer-to-peer, etc)
- Collaboration tools (wikis, blog, vlogs, IM, etc)
- Emerging technologies (RFID, 4G, quantum computing)
- Networking in general (broadband wireless, video/voice/data convergence, network management, network security)

Researching and Evaluating PDP and e-Portfolios -- October 9-11

In partnership with the Higher Education Academy, JISC, EPAC and SURF, the Centre for Recording Achievement is now pulling together an international seminar on the theme of researching and evaluating personal development planning (PDP) and e-portfolios for October 2006.

The seminar will be held at The Oxford Belfry, Oxfordshire, UK, on the 9th - 11th October 2006, and it both responds to the identification within the PDP and e-portfolio communities of the key importance of an effective evidence base and provides the start of opportunities for collaboration at international level on key research and evaluation questions.

Further details can be found at:

http://www.elearning.ac.uk/news_folder/pdpconference

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.5 License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/au/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 543 Howard Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

