



RIN Consultative Group for Physical Sciences, Technology & Engineering

NOTE FROM THE FOURTH MEETING –12 OCTOBER 2007

Action points in italics

Present:

Stéphane Goldstein (Research Information Network) (acting chair)
Simon Coles (University of Southampton)
Paul French (Imperial College)
Robin Hankin (National Oceanographic Centre)
Roger Hines (Sheffield Hallam University)
Michael Jubb (Research Information Network)
Tong Sun (City University)
Jackie van Bueren (Research Information Network)
Keith Westhead (British Geological Survey)

Apologies

Dorje Brody (Imperial College)
David Gavaghan (University of Oxford)
Werner Hofer (University of Liverpool)
Elaine Martin (University of Newcastle)
Suresh Thennadil (University of Newcastle)

1. **Minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2007** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/08*)



2. **Matters arising**



3. **Researchers' use of academic libraries – constitution of working group** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/09*)

The working group will look at the current report and make recommendations. The group's views were requested on how universities should develop policies at corporate level regarding the issues identified in the report. The group were also requested to suggest members.

This was discussed. The group agreed that library reviews need to look at the researchers perceptions of the changing role of libraries. Libraries mostly serve learners/undergraduates and assume they serve researchers electronically or virtually.

There should be a list of the needs of researchers i.e. what researchers need from libraries/librarians and strategies to meet these needs. The focus of the study would look at replacing the library as a physical central resource with general strategies. These should cover:

Journals

- A model to allow flexibility and overcome the difficulty in accessing new journals
- The funding/subscriptions for journals – the bundle deal. For example the cancellation of an old journal also means loosing all the back copies.

Digital output including:

- Training librarians in curation of software, archiving, preservation.
- Researchers need for training in sharing data so that it is not a burden.

A strategy for researchers and librarians handling of imagery was also mentioned.

Stephane: Notes

Suggestions for members of the working group were welcomed.

Jason Swedlow – University of Dundee – open macroscopy ie biology. An interest in metadata/archiving.

Sills of an archivist

Some on from publishers house

Ie a diverse group of researchers.

The Royal Society-The URS scheme. Fellowship-pool talk to someone who administers this scheme.

Something about international implications

4. **Data management, principles and practice** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/10*)

There are two other initiatives.

- Liz Lyon's published report for JISC has made 35 recommendations, some technical which develop the RIN principles.
- CURL/RUGGIT's (sp?) call for proposals for a feasibility study funded by HEFCE for a national data service.

The RIN's draft framework of principles and guidelines has just undergone a consultation exercise. The question was whether to take these principles further bearing in mind the above initiatives? This was discussed.

Clarification of the definition of data for researchers and of categorisation was requested. *There is a broad definition in the proposals and this could be developed.* The group also agreed at the planning stage the researcher should be asked how they will disseminate the data.

It was a crowded field and the consensus was that RIN's role was as an advocate.

RIN executive to include these comments in the amendments.

5. **RIN project on training of researchers in research information methodologies and tools** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/11*)

This project was discussed. Current limitations of Google were highlighted. The group agreed that training

- be problem or need driven and
- include the management of data.

Online courses and a centralised system were also mentioned.

The group's conclusions were noted.

6. **Update on national e-Infrastructure strategy** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/12*)

There is a high level round table meeting which RIN expects to attend. The group's views on how the report may be taken forward were requested so they can be conveyed at the meeting. The report was discussed. It was noted that the crucial points for researchers need to be highlighted.

Standardisation

Standardisation should be central to the strategy. The issue of competition between software companies was not helpful and can result in incompatible formats. Standard formats for example kite marks, for generic tools need to be defined by government at the national level. **Stephane the examples of EDUROAM and access grid.** These problems need to be addressed if data is to be shared and more importantly processed.

The question of whether the strategy was top down or bottom up (driven by a need to co-exist), was raised.

All of the above issues were recognised and noted.

7. **Proposal for RIN study on evaluating the usage and impact of e-journals** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/13*)

The group's views were requested on how the specification might be defined. A call for proposals would be issued in a few weeks. Members agreed that:

- Open access journals should be specifically included for comparison with subscriptions. It was noted that as both are paid albeit in different ways, this was a question of money, not funding. Optics was mentioned as a field for inclusion.
- In relation to user behaviour, one big change and a particular limitation of e-journals was that they do not allow the opportunity to browse. The value of having similar papers bunched together was lost. One consequence was that for example, undergraduates were not aware of the journal's context.

These points were very useful and taken on board.

8. **RIN update** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/14*)

9. **RIN review and strategic plan** (*paper RIN/PTE/07/15*)

10. **Other business**

Next meeting: date in January 2008 to be confirmed