

VERSIONS Project informal update for August – October 2006

The VERSIONS Project team have spent the past few months working on several large tasks. As a result, the updates for August – October 2006 have been combined below:

Analysis of the VERSIONS Project survey results

Detailed analysis of both numeric and free text results started during August, continuing into September and October.

To ensure that the questionnaires could be completed as quickly as possible, the majority of questions were designed requiring short answers only (multiple choice, multiple answer, selection list). Results in these formats can be analysed using the Bristol Online Survey software, which presents the answers as numbers, graphics and percentages. Initially the results were transferred into Word documents in full.

Following this the BOS software was used to cross tabulate the results by role, providing an insight into the attitudes and practice of respondents dependent on their specific roles (For example: Professor compared to PhD student, library staff directly involved with the repository compared to library staff without involvement). Results were also cross tabulated by geographic location of respondents and subject disciplines represented.

Results from the short responses have now been converted into word tables and corresponding graphs.

The survey results have also been used in the preparation of presentations to two conferences (Open Scholarship in Glasgow, October 2006 and DCC Conference in Glasgow, November 2006) - for more information about dissemination activities please see below.

The free text results analysis has been more time consuming. All comments were separated out and grouped into themes. Following this, any quotations effectively representing a particular point of view have been highlighted for possible use in the upcoming findings report.

Other survey news

PDFs detailing both sets of survey questions have now been added to the VERSIONS Project website (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/versions/surveys.html>).

The survey prize draw was won by Yvonne Auld, Project Officer for e-publications@bond, from Bond University in Queensland, Australia. Congratulations to Yvonne and, once again, many thanks to all survey respondents for taking the time to participate in the questionnaires.

9th Nereus Operational Group Meeting (incorporating 5th VERSIONS Project Meeting) and 13th Nereus Steering Committee Meeting at Maastricht University, 5th-6th October

During October, the project team attended the 9th Nereus OG meeting and chaired the 5th VERSIONS Project meeting as a part of this. Presentations were delivered on the progress of the project to date, specifically:

1) Online survey: Draft results

Draft results reports were presented for the researcher and stakeholder surveys. The presentation covered a preliminary analysis of key numeric responses and pertinent points raised by these. Free text comments, and interview results, were used to further illustrate the findings.

2) Publications list analysis

Frances Shipsey outlined preliminary conclusions from the publications list analysis report. This was followed by a discussion of the results by all project partners.

3) Dissemination activities

Louise Allsop provided details of all articles written and presentations delivered to date.

4) Literature review

Louise Allsop reported on the plan for this activity and progress to date.

5) Toolkit of guidelines and evaluation

Frances Shipsey delivered a brief summary of the above work packages.

Frances also attended part of the 13th Nereus Steering Committee Meeting on 6th October to present a regular progress and financial report to the SC, which also acts as the VERSIONS Project Steering Committee. These documents were approved. Draft results of the publications list analysis were also presented for discussion by the SC.

Literature review

The literature review is now well underway. A series of searches were completed on LISA (Library and Information Science Abstracts) and LISTA (Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts). These yielded a large number of results and pointed us towards articles that were highly relevant, and some that were less so. Each article is being located, printed and scan read to give an idea of relevance to the project and to the version identification issue as a whole. Any articles that appear relevant are being read more thoroughly. Following this a short report per review is being written, outlining any relevant material and citing any relevant quotations from the text.

To date, 19 articles have been read and reports written. A further 6 have been printed, to be read shortly. Please forward any useful articles / ideas about where to look for relevant material to Louise Allsop (l.allso@lse.ac.uk).

Dissemination activity

Completed:

20th October 2006 – Frances Shipsey – Presentation at Open Scholarship 2006: New Challenges for Open Access Repositories, The University of Glasgow on [‘Versions of academic papers and open access: attitudes and current practice among economics researchers’](#)

Forthcoming:

21st November 2006 – Frances Shipsey – Presentation at [2nd International Digital Curation Conference: Digital Data Curation in Practice](#), Glasgow

7th December 2006 – Frances Shipsey - Presentation at JISC Seminar on [Discovery and Access: Standards and the Information Chain](#), London