

VERSIONS Project informal update for February 2006

Please find below the VERSIONS Project informal update for February 2006.

Completion of interviews

Following last year's interviews at some of the Nereus partner institutions, interviews with staff and a student were completed at LSE during February. We have now collected a wide range of comments from researchers, library staff, and a taught course student.

LSE provided our first opportunity to speak with a student on a taught masters course; this presented a new and interesting perspective on the versions issue.

The interviews were designed to ascertain information about current usage of, and attitudes towards, open access digital repositories. In addition, information about current practices relating to author's retention of their own work was obtained. The interview findings are currently being analysed and will be used to shape the online questionnaire.

First batch of scenarios completed and circulated

Information has been pulled from the interviews to create a set of scenarios relating to versioning and open access issues. The first batch of scenarios has now been completed and circulated to the Nereus partners. These will be available to view on the VERSIONS website within the next few weeks. A second set will follow in March.

The scenarios pick out specific issues, relating to open access and versioning, that were raised in the interviews. They aim to illustrate how each issue can be managed in a positive manner.

Publications list analysis

The publications list analysis is investigating the extent of open access availability to full text research output, for a defined group of European economists.

The researchers are based at one of the following Nereus partner institutions: LSE, Tilburg University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Maastricht University, Université Libre de Bruxelles or Kiel Institute for World Economics. Their papers are collected together on Nereus' [Economists Online](#) website, which provides links to each institution's repository from a central site.

The study is establishing which papers are available in open access and going on to look at the source (postprint, scan of published article etc.). The results will then be cross-tabulated with the [Sherpa-Romeo](#) publisher copyright policies and other conclusions drawn.

This analysis is now well underway.

Involvement with other relevant projects

Links between the VERSIONS Project and the RIVER Project continued during February. RIVER, a scoping study on version identification commissioned by the JISC Scholarly Communications Group, is led by Rightscom Ltd with LSE Library and Oxford University Computing Services as partners. Frances Shipsey contributed expertise from the VERSIONS Project through co-planning and participating in a workshop of invited experts on 15 February in Oxford. The VERSIONS Project also shared draft scenarios with RIVER.

Dissemination activity

8 February 2006 - Frances Shipsey. [Versions of eprints: understanding researchers' needs](#). A presentation at [CAB International](#), Wallingford, Oxon. Slides are available on the VERSIONS Project website [dissemination page](#).

Project website updated

The VERSIONS website has now been fully updated to reflect project activity to date.