



The JISC RSC London e-Bulletin

February 2011

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JISC Review: Reshaping for the future

The publication of the independent review of JISC, commissioned by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE), initiates a period of reshaping of the JISC. In common with the rest of the education system there will be an emphasis on rationalising services, simplifying structures and reducing costs. In addition the review recommends: “focusing activities to achieve a large impact through activities clearly linked to the sectors’ priorities”.

The report notes that Regional Support Centres (RSCs) are widely used and valued: "There have been numerous positive comments about their training and development activities, and their engagement with individual institutions, including face to face contact."

Welcoming the review, Graciano Soares RSC London Manager commented: “It is important to see the review in the context of both the funders and beneficiaries of JISC. I know that colleagues in the region from all our represented sectors, which include Higher Education, Further Education, Work-Based Learning, Adult Community Learning, Offender Learning (OLASS) and Specialist Colleges, will want to voice their reactions to the review to ensure that the future shape of JISC, and the services it offers, matches the full diversity of sector and institutional priorities and learner expectations.”

You can read the Review in full at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2011/02/review.aspx>

If you or a colleague would like to make a comment about the Review, please go to the commentable version of the Review on JISCPress at <http://hefcereview.jiscpress.org/>.

RSC London Events

2nd March 2011 [Work Based Learning Conference](#) - Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1H - £42

11th March 2011 10.30 - 3.30 [Connected ACLs - We're all in IT together!](#) An ACL Joint Regional Forum - Brettenham House, WC2E 7EN - Free

24th March 2011 9:30 - 1.30 [HE in FE Forum](#) - Brettenham House, WC2E 7EN – Free

6th April 2011 10.00 – 4.00 [The BCE Round Table](#)- Stewart House, University of London, WC1B 5DN

National/Regional Events

9th March 2011 10.00 - 4.30 [JISC Advance - Digital Media and Copyright Seminar](#) – Brettenham House, WC2E 7EN - £100

14/15th March 2011 [JISC Conference 2011](#) Financial challenges - digital opportunities - BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, L3 4FP – from £50+VAT

24th March 2011 [Learning on Screen conference and awards 2011](#) - British Film Institute (BFI) London's South Bank

19/20th April 2011 [MoodleMoot UK2011](#) ULCC - Senate House, University of London

6/8th September 2011 [ALT-C 2011 - Thriving in a colder and more challenging climate](#) – Call for proposals

RSC London News

JISC Services and Sixth Form Colleges

As a result of responsibility for Sixth Form Colleges (SFCs) now resting with the Department for Education (DfE), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has withdrawn funding that supports **JISC activities for Sixth Form Colleges**, with effect from 1 April 2011. This covers all JISC services including JISC Advance services such as TechDis, Regional Support Centres, the internet connections provided by JANET and JISC Collections. The JISC services are jointly discussing options for DfE to provide funding to continue supporting some or all of these shared services. RSC London is hosting a round table for the region's SFCs on 24th February.

HE in FE Forum

The next meeting of RSC London's HE in FE Forum is taking place on Thursday 24 March at Brettenham House in central London. Topics will include scholarly practice for HE in FE and strategic issues affecting provision. The event is free and lunch is included, so come along to meet your colleagues and network. Event information and booking form: <http://www.rsc-london.ac.uk/1464/>

Keeping in touch

RSC London uses a mix of generic and targeted communications channels to get information to supported providers in a timely way and to enable different communities to share with each other. RSC London mailing lists currently serve these specific communities: Technical, Learning Resources, Staff Development (supporting the London Staff Development Network), Adult and Community Learning, Work Based Learning, HE, HE in FE, FE and Work Based Learning. If you would like to subscribe to any of these lists please email admin@rsc-london.ac.uk .

Also, in between our monthly e-bulletins, [RSC London News](#) publishes items of general interest and if you tweet, we are [@RSCLondon](#).

Other News

JISC Advance and LSIS sign Concordat

JISC Advance and LSIS signed a Concordat earlier this month setting out how the two organisations will work together to ensure coherent support to the sector to maximise the benefits of technology. Full news release at:

<http://www.jiscadvance.ac.uk/index.php/news/story/162>

Your feedback on the Excellence Gateway

In 2010, LSIS asked users for their views and to rate the current performance of the Excellence Gateway service. The key outcomes of the online survey are available at:

<http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=311651>

Shared services in cloud computing to be funded by HEFCE

Universities and colleges in England will benefit from a new programme of services and investment to deliver efficiencies through shared services in cloud computing infrastructure and applications. The £12.5 million programme is part of a suite of activities under the University Modernisation Fund (UMF), a HEFCE fund that aims to help universities and colleges deliver better efficiency and value for money through the development of shared services.

Further details are available at: <http://hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2011/cloud.htm>

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Funding Opportunities

LSIS Regional Response Fund

Conversations with FE and skills providers have led to the setting up of a new LSIS Regional Response Fund. The fund will support immediate improvement needs in the further education and skills sector brought about as a result of changes to funding mechanisms and allocations.

Deadline for applications 25 February. Further eligibility and application details on the [LSIS website](#) .

JISC Learning and Teaching Innovation Grants Programme

JISC invites funding proposals for projects under the 6th round of this programme. Funds of up to £50,000 for projects of one year duration are available. FE institutions in England that teach HE to more than 400 FTEs are eligible to bid provided proposals demonstrate how the work supports the HE in FE agenda. The next **deadline for submissions is 12 noon UK time on Monday 21 March 2011**. A briefing event will be held online via Elluminate on Tuesday 22 February 2011. Full eligibility and application details at:

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2011/01/grant0408.aspx

Resources

New JISC Techdis website launched

The new JISCTechdis website aims to improve accessibility to the advice and resources on the site which are designed to support both strategy and practice across the education, training and

skills sectors. A key feature of the new website is an enhanced and user-focused search capability. JISC Techdis are keen to receive feedback on the site, via the 'Contact Us' button on the home page. <http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk>

JISC Legal Newsletter

This month's JISC Legal newsletter includes articles on:

[Facebook](#) and how forthcoming changes should help to ensure that users only share their information, such as mobile phone numbers, when they intend to do so.

[A JANET factsheet](#) on providing email accounts for alumni - intended to assist in considering all the potential issues involved, including a JISC Legal contribution from the legal perspective.

The [Information Commissioner's](#) (ICO) re-launch of a personal information toolkit on how to protect personal data online.

Read the newsletter at: <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/Newsletter.aspx>

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Please forward to any colleagues who might find it useful.

To add, amend or cancel a subscription please contact [Rosemary Leadley](#).

Your comments and contributions are invited.