

# Keepers Extra Project: Next Steps

November 2015

## Introduction

Keepers Extra is a two-year project led by EDINA and supported by Jisc. In September 2015, as part of the project, EDINA and the ISSN IC hosted a workshop exploring potential international collaboration to improve e-journal preservation coverage.

This document is intended to brief workshop participants on our next steps and outline future project activities planned in the light of the workshop discussions. After a recap of the project objectives, we have outlined selected project work packages relevant to workshop participants that we will progress over the remainder of the Keepers Extra project.

## Project Objectives

As an early project activity, we identified three strategic objectives that support the Keepers Registry:

- 1. Improve preservation coverage.** Analysis has shown that over 60% of titles with an ISSN are not reported as archived. There are two aspects here: (1) to improve the ratio of content that is reported as ingested and archived, and (2) to help archiving agencies understand where there are gaps in coverage in what they report, and to highlight the associated impact of this so that they can take steps to improve.
- 2. Maximise the value of the Keepers Registry.** The Keepers Registry service can offer more value to its user communities. This involves robustness and scalability of the software platform and service processes, dissemination of information about internal practices and procedures of Keeper agencies, and consistent and transparent information about terms of access.
- 3. Build community.** There is opportunity to bring agency expertise together and consider how best to approach and divide labour for the 'long-tail' of unpreserved material. This would result in a shared strategy in the form of a recognized international action agenda that considers how to tackle the long tail, for example by sharing the work between existing agencies or by cultivating multi-national e-journal archiving activity.

## Outputs and Outcomes

Keepers Extra is addressing these strategic objectives by working towards the following outputs and outcomes:

- Introduction of an effective governance model for the Keepers Registry service.
- Delivery of improved service features and functionality by working to enhance and standardize the data ingested from Keepers, standardize modes of transport, and assess stakeholder needs to propose functionality that meets the needs of the service user community.
- Production of an International Action Agenda, as shared strategy, that outlines a mechanism for future collaboration between archiving agencies, a list of viable activities for the collaborating agencies to tackle, and an appraisal of the metrics that can be used to test progress in those activities.

## Progress and Next Steps

The following table summarises current progress against outputs and outcomes and highlights key next steps:

Output	Progress	Key Next Steps
Introduction of an effective service governance model	<p>Project activity thus far has shown that the Keepers Registry is valued highly by the archiving agencies and the international profile of the service is developing, as evidenced by the addition of two new keepers and the support of major intentional initiatives such as CNI, DPC, ANADP and UNESCO.</p> <p>We have had preliminary internal discussions about governance requirements. There is a distinction between governance of the Keepers Registry service and oversight of the Keepers Network that brings together Keeper agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider governance requirements for Keepers Registry service</li> <li>• Draft options appraisal containing models for service governance and proposal for Keepers Network project board</li> <li>• First meeting of governance board in June 2016 (coincide with workshop)</li> </ul>
Delivery of improved service features and functionality	<p>Of relevance to Keeper agencies, we have identified improvements to the data workflows used by the Keepers Registry service. We have analysed the monthly data submissions sent by current Keepers and designed a standardised data model that allows us to plan for implementation of service enhancements and streamline our processes. We are now producing a tailored report for each Keeper agency that explains the changes we are requesting to move to this new standard format.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact individual agencies to request data enhancements where necessary</li> <li>• Work with agencies to refine the Keepers Registry standard data model</li> <li>• Explore modes of transport and consider whether changes are desirable and feasible</li> </ul>
Production of an International Action Agenda	<p>Through the workshop and earlier consultations, we have established that there is appetite for more communication and strategic alignment.</p> <p>The following suggestions emerged from workshop discussions and have been identified as areas for project research: Interoperability of Licenses; Pro-Active shared approach towards small publishers; Guidance and Standards / Technical Sustainability. A workshop report detailing these suggestions was circulated to participants can be found here: <a href="http://bit.ly/1NsFzar">http://bit.ly/1NsFzar</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research viability of identified areas</li> <li>• Consider what progress would mean and how it could be measured</li> <li>• Circulate drafts of proposals among keepers</li> <li>• Organise second workshop in June 2016 to consolidate network mechanism and further refine actions and metrics as a group</li> </ul>
Model for development of approaches to different content types.	<p>Working with different content types and data streams was not an objective of the original project plan, and the topic was explored for the first time at the workshop where participants agreed that it was likely to be a significant issue in future.</p> <p>We are therefore proposing to document common practices and principle around e-journal archiving in order to provide a model for the development of approaches to different content types. This outcome is in early stages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore shared practices in the research areas identified at the workshop</li> <li>• Document commonalities in approach and principles arising from these</li> <li>• Make model broadly available as the basis for future work/projects</li> </ul>

## Conclusion

### How this work will impact on the Keepers Registry

The goal of the Keepers Extra project is to enable EDINA to maximise the value of the Keepers Registry and ensure that it is an efficient and sustainable service that effectively meets its users' needs.

Reflecting on our identified strategic objectives, our activities aim to embed and support the Keepers Registry service in a number of ways

Working with agencies to improve the data and transfer processes will allow us automate and streamline the metadata collection and ingest processes. It will also enable us to enhance and expand the service, building on the existing functionality to better support the both Keepers and the library community through tailored enhanced reporting features.

Maximising the potential value of the Keepers Registry will involve providing regular updates of key statistics on known archival coverage to provide evidence that can be used by others to increase archival activity, highlighting titles that are not fully archived in order to enhance support to the Keeper activity, and investigating how the Keepers Registry can either be used as a model or directly, through broadening of scope, to support archival activity for other types of published digital content.

Building community around the Registry will support international activity to increase preservation coverage, and support the recruitment and enrolment of new Keepers to increase the number and coverage of archiving activity known to the Keepers Registry.

### How this work will impact on the Keepers

To achieve the outcomes and outputs described above, we envisage continued liaison with participants of the September workshop. We are starting to make arrangements for a second workshop in June 2016, which will be used to report progress on the activities that have been outlined in this document. The Keepers Extra project team will be in touch with regards to relevant next steps outlined in this report.