

Digital research community council meeting

15 July 2020 11:00-12:30

[Zoom link](#)

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Apologies: Chris Awre, Prof Richard Catlow

1. Agenda

Time	Item	Action
11:00	Welcome and introductions	<p>Helen will give a brief background to the community and council.</p> <p>All to introduce themselves including the perspective they bring to the council and their interest in the community.</p>
11:25	Community purpose, scope, audience, activities and outputs	<p>We will discuss the aims and activities of the community.</p> <p>What should the community's scope be? Focus on research 4.0 or broader? What should the main priorities? What problems should the community address? What are the key activities and outputs? How open/closed should the community be?</p> <p>This discussion will feed into a community charter – see the draft version in section 4 of this document.</p>
11:55	Break	
12:05	Launch of community and activities for first 6 months	<p>When will this happen? What are the first activities? How will we get engagement with the community?</p> <p>Consideration of practical aspects of the community, such as platforms and technologies to use.</p>
12:20	Review council Terms of Reference and next steps	<p>We aim to hold the next council meeting in around a month's time. We need to decide on actions to be prioritised before the next meeting. (The draft Terms of reference are in section 5 of this document.)</p> <p>A priority is to decide how the council will communicate in order to continue discussion and planning.</p>

2. Digital research community council members

Dr Nicola Abraham, Lecturer, Applied Theatre Practices, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
Dr Sean Adams, University of Glasgow, Senior Lecturer in New Testament and Ancient Culture
Chris Awre, Head of Information Services, University of Hull
Prof Anne Boddington, Professor of Design Innovation, Kingston University
Prof Michael Braddick, Professor of History, University of Sheffield
Dr Steve Bullock, Senior Lecturer, Dynamics and Control for Automated Air-to-Air Refuelling, University of Bristol
Prof Richard Catlow, Vice-President of the Royal Society
Rachel Cox, Engagement and Policy Project Manager, Vitae
Vanessa Cuthill, Director of Research, British Academy
Dr Christine Ferguson, Information specialist, EMBL-EBI
Prof Karen Fleming, Belfast School of Art, Ulster University
Prof Matthew Flinders, Professor of Politics, University of Sheffield
Prof Anna Furse, Professor of Theatre and Performance, Goldsmiths' College
Prof Mark Horton, Director of research, Royal Agricultural College
George Macgregor, Institutional Repository Manager, University of Strathclyde, representing UKCORR
Prof Sunil Manghani, Professor of Theory, Practice and Critique, Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton
Prof Marcus Manufo, Professor of Biological Psychology, University of Bristol
Valerie McCutcheon, Research information manager, University of Glasgow, representing ARMA
Prof Iain Styles, Professor of Computer Science, Institutional Lead for Data Science and AI, University of Birmingham
Prof Jane Winters, Professor of Digital Humanities & Pro-Dean for Libraries, University of London

Jisc staff

Dr Tamsin Burland, Senior co-design manager
Helen Clare, e-Infrastructure strategy manager (skills)
Matthew Dovey, Head of e-Infrastructure Strategy
Dr Caroline Ingram, Product lead
Dr Victoria Moody, Research strategy lead
Paola Marchionni, Head of digital resources for teaching, learning and research

3. Background Information

Jisc is the UK's higher, further education and research sectors' not-for-profit organisation for digital services and solutions. We operate shared digital infrastructure and services, negotiate sector-wide deals with IT vendors and commercial publishers and provide trusted advice and practical assistance for universities, colleges and learning providers. Jisc's work to support research is summarised in the attached **Document 1 Jisc's value to research**.

As part of our support for members, we facilitate several communities, around topics including accessibility, student experience and most recently, planning for coronavirus (see the [Get involved](#) page for further details). Jisc also runs a series of [open access community events](#) and has previously run a [Research Data Network](#).

Over the last 18 months, Jisc has convened a group of Pro Vice Chancellors for Research; the Research Strategy Forum, to inform the development of its research sector strategy. As well as providing invaluable input to Jisc, the group itself has become a welcome forum for discussion amongst the members.

In addition, we are running a series of focus groups with national academies and research funders, exploring capabilities for future research environments and the potential of Research 4.0. Feedback from these groups has suggested Jisc can play a role in facilitating sharing of practice and the 'art of the possible' related to technology and research practice. Feedback is summarised in **Document 2 Exploring capabilities for future research**.

As a result, Jisc now aims to build a **digital research community** in partnership with a community council.

4. Draft digital research community charter

[NB This charter is for external use to guide the whole digital research community]

- The digital research community explores how technology innovation can help improve current research practices and enable leading research with global impact, cutting across disciplines, mission groups and geography.
- The community is for researchers, research leaders, research managers and other professionals involved in facilitating research, such as researcher developers, research software engineers, library and IT staff.
- It is a forum for showcasing and sharing practice, for discussing ideas and concerns related to technology innovation for research, and for encouraging collaboration and unified approaches where appropriate.
- It is a place for discussion of concerns and sharing of ideas across a full spectrum of activities related to the research process. It considers where technology solutions might alleviate concerns and support objectives, as well as the culture, skills and processes for effective implementation of those solutions.
- Our community supports our members to solve problems and learn from each other's experience by providing an open and trusted environment to interact with peers about how technology supports research.
- We tap into the collective wisdom of the group and actively share our insights with the wider world through content in various forms.
- Members agree to follow community guidelines / code of practice (to be developed).
- We meet X times per year, use Teams community / Zoom.

5. Draft terms of reference for community council

Role and purpose

- To advise Jisc on the development of the digital research community by actively providing ideas, feedback and comment on community activity.
- To support and facilitate the development of the digital research community exploring how technology innovation can help improve current research practices and enable leading research with global impact, cutting across disciplines, mission groups and geography.
- To represent the views of the community in the development of Jisc's services and activities to support the use of digital technologies in research.
- To act as advocates for the development of a cooperative approach to sharing innovation and good practice, across disciplines, mission groups and geography.

Membership

- Membership is by invitation and is open to researchers, research leaders, research managers and other professionals involved in facilitating research, such as research development, research software engineers, library and IT staff. Appropriate Jisc staff and representatives of relevant community or professional organisations who wish to support the aims of the council will also be invited.
- Period of membership is not restricted and is dependent on individual members' preference. It is preferred that those members standing down from the council provide reasonable notice of their departure.

Review

- The council will review the relevance/value of its work and terms of reference annually.

Working arrangements

- Council meetings will be held quarterly. Additional meetings may be called depending on activity and consultation required over a given period.
- Meetings will be organised by Jisc staff who will also be responsible for generating and circulating the agenda and papers, in consultation with the Chair and other members as required. Notes and actions will be produced and circulated following meetings by Jisc staff.
- Outputs from the council will be publicised to the wider community via appropriate blogs and email lists.
- The **Chair** will be appointed by invitation with the approval of the council.
- Non-members may be invited to attend meetings on an ad-hoc basis as required.
- Reasonable travel expenses for attendance at meetings will be reimbursed by Jisc if required.
- **An email distribution list** will be used to facilitate communication between council members and to circulate documents as required. This list will be managed by Jisc staff. All council members will remain as subscribers to this list for the duration of their membership.