

Scholarly publishing: remit to JISC group

Having regard to the terms of RSLG's remit, to advise the Group on:

1. Trends in scholarly publishing observable now and how these will affect patterns of publication, and researchers' use of publications, in the future. This should include
 - a. Trends in volume and preferred format of published output (e.g. are journals becoming more numerous and diverse? What is the medium term outlook for the monograph?)
 - b. The pace and focus of the switch to electronic publishing, including both "traditional" outputs in electronic form (e.g. conventional journals going online) and the development of new formats specifically exploiting the electronic medium (preprints; text outputs linked to datasets that are only available online; others?)
 - c. The case (if any) for pro-actively encouraging any particular actual or possible development (are there potential developments which might if encouraged lead to significant change in the research process or in the cost of accessing information sources?)
2. Implications of the observed trends, including:
 - a. The implications of a shift from print to electronic publishing:
 - peer review processes, copyright and ownership of material
 - the significance of journal titles as indicators of quality and peer esteem
 - the effects of change on learned societies whose journal is their main income source
 - the dynamics of commercial journal publishing
 - b. The implications for researchers' publication behaviour more broadly: are changes likely in the preferred mode and format of publication and in perceived hierarchies of publication type?
 - c. Managing access to online material – including licensing, cataloguing, and search engines.
 - d. The implications for the presentation and submission requirements of theses and for access to these.