

May 1, 2007

Voluntary Deposit Scheme for Electronic Journals

As you will know, The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003¹ made provision for the legal deposit of UK digital publications, subject to Parliament's affirmative resolution of a series of subsequent Regulations. Publishers and libraries have continued to work together through the medium of the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit (JCLD) and established a working group on electronic journals (eJournals) together with the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel (LDAP).

I am now writing on behalf of the LDAP / JCLD eJournal Group to invite publishers to participate in the *Voluntary Deposit Scheme for Electronic Journals under the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003*. Under this scheme publishers are asked to volunteer scholarly UK electronic journal content for deposit.

The Voluntary Scheme is being established to develop the process for deposit of and access to eJournals between publishers and legal deposit libraries. One of the objectives of this is to test the viability of a voluntary approach to eJournal deposit and, unlike the Pilot Project that was run in 2005/6, publishers will continue to deposit new issues of each deposited eJournal title.

Initially, to minimise the effort and lead time required for deposit by all parties the British Library is inviting volunteers who can deposit according to **specific technical criteria**.

In this first phase, the British Library invites publishers who are able to provide content in **both** fully-populated, full-text XML to the NLM Archiving and Interchange DTD v2.3² as well as PDF v1.7³ format using FTP as the file transfer protocol. This phase will start in July 2007 and continue until the list of volunteers who can deposit in this format has been exhausted. The British Library will ingest, store and manage the content that is submitted.

The scheme will be reviewed initially after 12 months in order to assess the technical and operational issues that have arisen for publishers and the legal deposit libraries. Feedback will be provided to participants and publisher groups through their representatives on the LDAP / JCLD eJournal Group.

Subsequent phases of the voluntary scheme will broaden the technical criteria until all agreed standards of format and deposit protocol can be accepted. The standards for deposit will be agreed by the *eJournal Joint Technical Panel on Legal Deposit* that will consist of representatives from the publisher and legal deposit library communities.

Access to the deposited content will be strictly controlled:

¹ <http://www.uk-legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2003/30028--a.htm#1>

² <http://dtd.nlm.nih.gov/archiving/>

³ http://www.adobe.com/devnet/pdf/pdf_reference.html

- The deposited content will be accessible by users on the premises of the legal deposit libraries only.
- Only one simultaneous view of each eJournal issue⁴ will be allowed at each of the individual legal deposit libraries.

For further details about this Voluntary Scheme please contact Emma Cass at the British Library (emma.cass@bl.uk).

Thank you for your support of this next stage of the legal deposit process.

Michael Mabe
Chief Executive Officer
International STM Association

⁴ An eJournal title is assumed to be composed of multiple issues that are periodically published or distributed.