

**Register Locally - Discover Globally:  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Registries Network Initiative Meeting,  
31 March 2008, University of Southampton**

***Meeting Report***

This is a brief report of a meeting held on 31 March 2008 in Southampton (preceding the Open Repositories 08 Conference) to discuss the establishment of a global network of registries that would support federations of repositories and data storage facilities. It follows the previous meeting held in Washington DC on December 9, 2007 that canvassed the scope and desirability of a registry initiative with a wide range of stakeholders in the USA.

After introductions, Jeremy Frumkin (as meeting co-chair) opened the meeting by outlining the purpose of the meeting and presenting an overview of the GRN (Global Registry Network) initiative and its rationale. He explained that the purpose of the type of registries under discussion were not only to support discovery of data collections and the like, but also the machine-to-machine services that would enable third-party services to interact with them (in accordance with service-oriented information architectures and protocols).

Following Jeremy's overview there was an open-ended discussion about a wide range of questions related to the establishment and operation of a global network of registries. For example, Mark Baker, drawing on his expertise in grid and high performance computing environments, raised numerous questions about how security and scalability challenges for registries would be addressed. From a different perspective, Paul Walk (and others) questioned how the GRN would overlap with and support the software development activities in the so-called Web 2.0 services space.

More generally, the group discussed the various models for 'federating' a network of registries (e.g. DNS-like model, peer-to-peer model, central portal model). This led to a discussion of the potential users and operational scope of the GRN, for instance whether it would be confined to the research sector or beyond. Questions also arose as to the level of interaction between registries and related services operated at the national level, such as the JISC Shared Infrastructure Services, and the GRN. Where possible the meeting co-conveners (Frumkin and Blackall) answered these questions but reiterated that some will remain unanswered until further community discussion and consultation take place.

To better contextualise the previous discussion, the meeting was then introduced to some working registry applications. Jeremy Frumkin gave a demonstration of the OCKHAM Registry<sup>1</sup> that is deployed in conjunction with the National Science Digital Library (NSDL)<sup>2</sup>. Ann Apps then gave a demonstration of IESR (Information Environment Service Registry) and noted that the registries demonstrated provide for metadata object types comprising collection, agent and service objects and thus are capable in principle of exchanging metadata records<sup>3</sup>. Finally, Chris Blackall gave a demonstration of the ORCA (Online Research Collections Australia) Registry<sup>4</sup>. He discussed how the ORCA data model is based on ISO2146 (Registry Services for Libraries and Related Organisations)<sup>5</sup> and also emphasized that its metadata profile was compatible with IESR and OCKHAM metadata.

The final session was taken up by a discussion of the steps to be taken next. Chris Blackall discussed the outcomes of the previous GRN meeting in Washington: one outcome being that support should be gauged in the UK, and the European Union more widely, for a major GRN workshop in the second half of 2008. Rachel Bruce asked if any approaches had been made to other European countries; Chris Blackall signalled an intention to speak to representatives of the DRIVER Project and other relevant groups while attending the OR08 conference.

Rachel Bruce confirmed that funding would be available to support UK participation in such a workshop. Jeremy Frumkin foreshadowed that a request for workshop funding would be submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to cover the expenses of USA-based stakeholders. Similarly, Chris Blackall indicated that funding was available for Australian participation, although NSF funding could help broaden participation.

Based on this information, it was agreed that planning for a major GRN workshop in the second half of 2008 would go ahead. It was also agreed that IESR, APSR and OCKHAM would exchange metadata records among the three registries (where feasible) to test some basic assumptions. Finally, it was agreed that the meeting notes (this document)<sup>6</sup> would be circulated and that attendees would be kept informed about future workshops, meetings and other developments related to the GRN initiative.

On behalf of the meeting co-chairs, Jeremy Frumkin concluded the meeting by thanking the attendees for their participation.

The organisers would like to thank the JISC Information Environment Programme for brokering and hosting the meeting, particularly Rachel Bruce and Neil Grindley. They would also like to thank the University of Southampton and the organisers of the OR08 Conference for their hospitality and assistance.

#### **Attendees**

Chris Blackall (co-chair)	Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories
Jeremy Frumkin (co-chair)	OCKHAM Initiative and Oregon State University
Rachel Bruce	JISC
Neil Grindley	JISC
Andy McGregor	JISC
Emma Beer	JISC, Strategic Content Alliance
Tim Parkinson	OMII-UK
Ann Apps	IESR, Mimas, The University of Manchester
Chris Awre	University of Hull
Paul Walk	UKOLN, University of Bath
Bill Hubbard	University of Nottingham
Warwick Cathro	National Library of Australia
Mark Baker	University of Reading

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<sup>1</sup> OCKHAM Registry: <http://registry.library.oregonstate.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> NSDL: <http://nsdl.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://iesr.ac.uk/service-registries-blog/2008/04/register-locally-discover-globally.html>

<sup>4</sup> ORCA Registry: <https://pilot.apsr.edu.au/cosi/about.php>

<sup>5</sup> ISO2146 Documentation: <http://www.nla.gov.au/wgroups/ISO2146/>

<sup>6</sup> The organisers would like to thank Warwick Cathro for the use of his meeting notes.