

Bringing transparency to CRIS procurement through an innovative codesign approach with Jisc members in the UK

Developing the Jisc research management systems dynamic purchasing system (DPS)

The challenge

The procurement of CRIS systems is seen as a huge challenge by Jisc UK-based member organisations.

Jisc already had a procurement tool to help with procurement of repositories. As this was coming up to retirement, there was an opportunity to take a member-led approach to the development of a new iteration so that it could also be used to procure a CRIS.

Investigating CRIS procurement

The organisation carried out stakeholder interviews at UK universities to identify how a new solution could tackle common challenges.

The interviews revealed that HEIs believe the existing process is:

- Time consuming
- Challenging to start and complex to manage
- Dominated by powerful commercial providers
- Lacking in transparency from suppliers

Jisc's team set out to work with member organisations to create a better DPS that made procurement easier, more flexible and more transparent.

How was the new DPS developed?

Using a design thinking approach to establish the level of demand from the UK sector and determine a set of functional requirements for CRIS suppliers.

New requirements

A single set of functional requirements to suit all cases and systems was not feasible. The team instead established a small set of mandatory requirements ensuring basic functionality.

The DPS also asks for details of solutions':

- Hosting
- Onboarding and exiting
- Customer engagement
- Access and authentication
- Accessibility
- System performance
- Branding
- Data and metadata

Benefits of using the DPS

As identified by interviewees:

- Easy process for buyers and suppliers
- Reduced timescales for procurements
- Transparent information about systems and services
- Expert, unbiased support from Jisc
- Reassurance that suppliers are pre-qualified

All suppliers must confirm their system can:

- Record all aspects of research activity
- Support organisational hierarchies
- Be compatible with CERIF
- Enable interoperability with other institutional systems
- Support internal and external reporting of research information

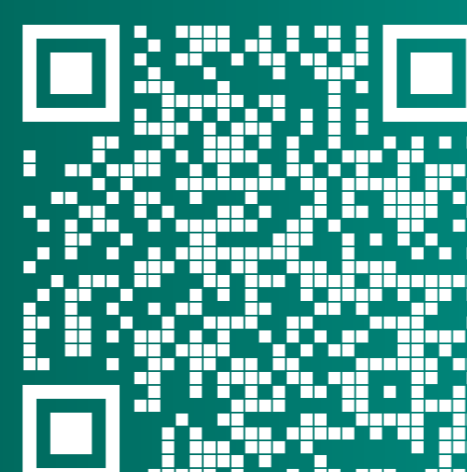
Who can use the DPS?

- UK Higher and Further Education institutions
- Research Council establishments
- UK organisations connected through the Janet network
- National Research and Education Network (NREN) members with direct connection to Janet or that is a member of the consortium the operates GÉANT.

All competitions must be conducted in English.

Further Information

For more information about the DPS, including the mandatory criteria, requests for information and the list of suppliers can be found on the service page on the Jisc website.



The result:

A new approach to procurement: the Research Management Systems DPS.

We collaborated with UK universities to develop the new approach, placing emphasis on **transparency** and **flexibility**, rather than a long list of prescriptive requirements.

The pre-qualification of suppliers provides **reassurance** and the additional information provided by suppliers gives buyers a framework to develop and refine their own specific requirements.

Buyers can make informed decisions according to their own priorities.