

JIBS BSOL Enhancement group Meeting 15 March 2010

Brief overview

BSI now has a training team who will be developing training materials which can be used or customised for use within VLE's . They are also prepared to travel to deliver on site training to staff or students.

Staff from BSI gave the group an overview of the Standards development web site.

<http://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/>

This gives links to the new proposals web site that allows members of the public to view and comment on new proposals, search proposals by name, subject matter or committee and suggest new ideas for standards. There is also a link to the Draft Review system to read and comment on draft standards available for public comment and to find out which trade associations and professional bodies are represented on BSI committees and discover which standards they are currently working on.

BSI staff indicated that they were keen to get more academic staff on to BSI committees.

Subscriptions

BSI confirmed their previous statement on the withdrawal of the Info4Education link. Negotiations with JISC on the next deal had not yet started. They also understood that in the present climate 5 year deals without a get out clause would be difficult for many institutions.

They are also looking again at terms and conditions and we pressed them about walk in users and use of standards in VLEs. BSI responded by confirming that they were keen to encourage usage of British Standards by the academic community and would find a way to make this possible.

BSI expressed some concern about whether JISC banded deals worked for all HIM and FE institutions, not least those with low numbers of Science and technology students but high numbers of humanities and social sciences students.

Software Development

BSI indicated, as they did at the last meeting, that they had a lot of work to do on the fundamental back architecture of their database and web site. They were reluctant to give any firm timescale in terms of delivery of Shibboleth compliance and personalisation as this would be very much dependent on the successful completion of the work to the architecture of the service before changes of this kind would be visible to users, development of the advanced search etc. Since the meeting, BSI have received sign off to separate BSOL from the BSI Shop and the group website. This will make it easier to make further changes and they hope to be able to make significant improvements to the BSOL search facility later in 2010. They acknowledged that the group's previous advice on software development was valuable and would be followed up. The group asked BSI for a list of developments so we could comment on priorities. Software development would be discussed at our next meeting, and BSI suggested November as a date.

Authentication

BSI are committed to Shibboleth compliance, and while they could not give an accurate time scale for this they have worked with universities to find alternatives to Shibboleth access prior to compliance. Imperial College had worked with them on improving authentication for off campus users not using ezProxy but using blind log ins from a secure intranet page. We have asked BSI to produce information the various authentication methods they can offer at present.

E-books

There was brief discussion on BSI e-books and BSI was asked to consider sales via an aggregator who would mount items rather than sell PDF copies. BSI said that some work was already being done on this, albeit in very early stages.

Future Resource Discovery Systems

BSI were asked to consider working with the new resource discovery systems that are coming on to the market .BSI were given a brief demo of Summon.