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JISC Collections working with DataSalon to create innovative licence comparison site

Innovative new online service will allow librarians and their users to search and compare electronic licences and quickly view differences in usage terms

JISC Collections will be working with DataSalon to specify and build an online licence comparison site enabling librarians to view, compare and export the terms of licences expressed in ONIX-PL format. Launching at the end of 2010, the site will provide a user-friendly means for librarians to review individual licences, view two licences side-by-side, or compare terms across many different licences at once in a way which has never before been possible.

Libraries typically have many different licence agreements for their digital resources, but understanding their permissions and communicating these to users can be a difficult process when dealing with complex and varied paper contracts. In response, EDItEUR, a leading international standards group, developed the ONIX Publications License format (ONIX-PL), an XML Schema which provides a standardised way of expressing licence terms electronically. Partnering DataSalon with EDItEUR and JISC Collections, the licence comparison site project will further build on this work by making licences expressed in this format easily accessible to the UK academic library community.

DataSalon has previously worked with JISC Collections to create the **Academic Database Assessment Tool** (<http://www.jisc-adat.com>), a free online database comparison service which aims to help libraries make informed decisions about future subscriptions to online resources. Providing access to detailed information and title lists for major bibliographic and full text databases, and delivering service information for database and eBook content platforms, the site has received strong support from university librarians in the UK and worldwide since its launch in 2007.

The license comparison site will seek to repeat this success and provide librarians with an entirely new way of viewing and comparing the terms of different licences online. It will initially be launched with around 80 of the most common JISC Collections electronic licences in the system, and will be provided as a free online service to participating libraries.

Liam Earney, Head of Licensing at JISC Collections, welcomed the launch of the project: "This will be an invaluable resource for librarians who work with licences on a day-to-day basis, providing instant access to information which they can't easily access elsewhere. We are delighted to be working with DataSalon once more to deliver an essential new online comparison site, and are looking forward to its launch at the end of the year."

Nick Andrews, Managing Director of DataSalon said: "We are very pleased to have been chosen by JISC Collections to design and develop this innovative new service. We believe that our experience of delivering user-friendly online solutions and previous work with JISC Collections on the ADAT project puts us in a great position to deliver a genuinely groundbreaking licence comparison site for the academic library community."

[See notes for editors on the following page...]

Notes for Editors:

1. **JISC Collections** was established as a mutual trading company by the UK further and higher education funding councils in 2006 to negotiate with publishers of online information and other owners of digital content. The range of resources licensed for use by such agreements constitutes a large national collection of online resources for education and research. JISC Collections is funded by JISC. For further information, please go to: www.jisc-collections.ac.uk.
2. **DataSalon Ltd** is based in Oxford, UK and specialises in providing flexible and powerful tools for data integration and analysis which are also extremely user-friendly and easy to implement. DataSalon has a strong client base in the publishing industry, including Oxford University Press, The American Medical Association, and The Royal Society of Chemistry. Our website is at: <http://www.datasalon.com>.

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