Our Ref :
Your Ref :

Dr Malcolm Read
Executive Secretary
Joint Information Systems Committee Executive
Northavon House
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol BS16 1QD
United Kingdom

Dear Dr Read Malcolm

Thank you for visiting us in February of this year and talking to DEST people and a number of other audiences. It was good to talk with you about common approaches and ways of overcoming barriers that always exist in this sort of work, regardless of which country we work in.

We particularly enjoyed your contribution and that of the JISC people who joined us in Melbourne prior to the IDEA meetings. It is most valuable to work together to solve problems in building information infrastructure for the education and research sectors across international boundaries.

You may be interested in our recent Call for Proposals that we hope will advance the development of an electronic information infrastructure for research. The Call for Proposals can be found at http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/programmes_funding/programme_categories/res earch_related_opportunities/systemic_infrastructure_initiative/callforproposals.htm.

Enclosed is your copy of the JISC – DEST Cooperation Framework.

We are delighted at the formalisation of this framework and the ongoing work that is underway following our meetings in Melbourne earlier this year.

Yours sincerely

Anne-Marie Lansdown
Branch Manager
Innovation and Research Systems Group

⅄ May 2005

JISC

Australian Government

Department of Education, Science and Training

Cooperation Framework

between the

Joint Information Systems Committee

and

Australian Government

Department of Education, Science and Training

Co-operation Framework

Between

The Australian Department of Education, Science and Training

and

Joint Information Systems Committee

1.   This Co-operation Framework records the understanding between **DEST** and **JISC** and is not intended to create any legal obligations.

2. The Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (**DEST**) develops and implements policies to build a better future for all Australians through learning, science and innovation. **DEST** works to ensure that:

- students achieve high quality foundation skills and learning outcomes from schools;
- individuals achieve relevant skills and learning outcomes from post school education and training for work and life; and
- social development and economic growth are advanced through:
    - o   a strong science, research and innovation capacity; and
    - o   international engagement in science, education.

In recognition of the growing importance of information and communications technologies (ICT) to support teaching, learning and research communities, **DEST** supports a range of activities that aim to develop widely accepted technical specifications that enable interoperability between systems and applications.

3. The Joint Information Systems Committee (**JISC**) supports UK post 16 & higher education and research by providing leadership in the use ICT in support of learning, teaching, research and administration. **JISC** is funded by the United Kingdom post 16 and higher education funding councils. **JISC's** five strategic aims reflect and support both United Kingdom government objectives and the needs of the education and research communities:

- To develop solutions that help enable education and research communities to keep their activities world class through the innovative use of ICT.
- To provide advice to institutions enabling them to make economic, efficient and legally compliant use of ICT, respecting individual and corporate rights and responsibilities.
- To help the sector provide positive, personalised user learning experiences and aid student progression.
- To develop mutually advantageous partnerships with organisations.
- To advise, inform and help implement the strategies of government, funding councils and Research Councils.

4. In signing this Co-operation Framework **DEST** and **JISC** demonstrate their commitment to collaboration and innovation in the delivery of world-class technologies for education and research communities.

Understanding

5. DEST and JISC understand that the goals of the Co-operation Framework are:

- Inform strategic planning in their respective national contexts.
- Optimise the return on investment by sharing where appropriate human and financial resources.
- Enhance capacity to implement technical infrastructure in their respective countries.
- Enhance staff development within the partner organisations through sharing expertise and knowledge networks.
- Provide joint leadership in the development of international technical specifications and standards.
- Develop links with vendor communities through the joint articulation of service needs.

6. There will be an annual review of the Co-operation Framework Workplan. Both parties will meet to discuss progress, share knowledge and identify operational activities. Specifically these meetings will define priorities for joint activities for the next year. The annual statement of priorities and detailed Workplan will form part of this agreement. Refer to Annex 1 for Co-operation Framework Statement of Priorities – 2005.

7. The inclusion of third parties in any given activity or project will be subject to agreement by both DEST and JISC.

8. **DEST** and **JISC** are committed to the open sharing of intelligence and non-confidential information between their organisations. Any shared information deemed confidential will be respected as such by both parties.

9. Copyright and independent ownership rights will be decided upon initiation of each joint activity, where possible joint IPR will be arranged, otherwise ownership rights will be retained by the lead project organisation.

10. This Co-operation Framework will guide the relationship between **DEST** and **JISC** and will remain in effect for two (2) years from the date of signing.

11. This Co-operation Framework may be reviewed subject to the approval by both parties/

12. Either **DEST** or **JISC** can terminate the Co-operation Framework by means of ninety (90) days written notice to the other party. The withdrawal of this Co-operation Framework will not affect the conclusion of projects formalised prior to that withdrawal.

13. This Co-operation Framework may be amended by the written consent of both parties.
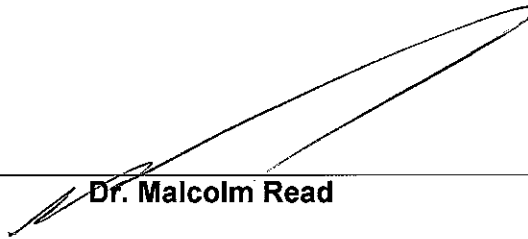
Signed in two copies, ...31..... January 2005

Ms Lisa Paul   Dr. Malcolm Read

Secretary   Executive Secretary

Department of Education, Science   **Joint Information Systems Committee**
and Training (DEST)   **(JISC)**

Australia   United Kingdom

ANNEX 1: Co-operation Framework Statement of Priorities – 2005

Joint projects will be developed in the following priority areas:

1. E-Learning Framework. Development of a common e-learning framework, for adoption in their respective operational environments.

2. Repository Services. Collaborate on interoperability issues relating to the management of repositories development of repository services, including the testing of solutions where appropriate within and across each country.

3. Middleware infrastructure. Work towards a shared understanding of middleware infrastructure requirements to support teaching and research and to undertake joint development projects.