

Legal Deposit Advisory Panel: Half Year Report 1 September 2005 – 31 March 2006

1. Role and Purpose of the Panel

The Legal Deposit Advisory Panel (LDAP) has been set up to advise the Secretary of State on the content and timing of regulations for implementing the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 with reference to the deposit of particular classes of non-print media.

2. The Panel's main operational activities

The fifteen member Panel has held four half day meetings with high attendance and participation rates during the first six month period of its existence.

Members of the Panel have taken part in information and evidence gathering visits to the UK head offices of the publishers Elsevier and the British Library in London and Boston Spa.

The Chair has met panel members on an individual basis; has made a number of additional visits to hold meetings with publishers, newspapers and news agencies and the British Library. The Chair has also attended a meeting of the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit (JCLD).

3. Methods of working: focussed triads

In order to achieve the Panel's tasks and in recognition of the differing expertise of the Panel's members, five small working groups, known as triads, have been established to take forward particular aspects of the Panel's work. Each triad comprises three Panel members. Triads are chaired by a member of the Panel and make regular reports on their work and recommendations for action to the Panel.

The role of the triad is to focus on a single area of the Panel's activity and to investigate this in detail. This involves consulting with and taking soundings from other Panel members, interest groups and stakeholders as the work of each triad takes shape and prior to presentation of the triad's ideas, views and recommendations to the full Panel.

In undertaking this work, each triad works closely with LDAP's Chair and DCMS Secretariat as well with the DTI Advisor to LDAP and, as appropriate, DCMS lawyers.

The triads were established as follows:

Triad 1: Offline Publications

Angela Mills Wade (Chair), Martyn Wade, Trevor Fenwick

Triad 2: E-journals

Adrienne Muir (Chair) Andrew Yeates, Peter Fox

Triad 3: Web Content

Simon Tanner (Chair), Clive Field, Ann Limb

Triad 4: Territoriality

Robin Adams (Chair) Hugh Jones, Nina Barakzai

Triad 5: Processes and Protocols

Andrew Green (Chair), Nick Higham, Sally Morris

Triads 1-3 agreed to produce:

- an outline of the current position on legal deposit in relation to the triad's category of non print media
- an initial assessment, based on available evidence, of whether or not a voluntary system for deposit would work for the triad's category of non print media
- a draft outline of what recommendations for regulation might look like if a statutory route for the triad's category of non print media were to be followed

Triad 4 undertook to explore possible ways of defining the terms associated with the notion of territoriality and to produce an outline assessment of whether it would be possible to have generic definitions applicable across all categories of non print media or whether it might be necessary to take a different approach to suit the needs and circumstances of the different categories of non print media.

Triad 5 agreed to focus on the production of standard frameworks and templates to ensure consistent formulation and presentation of the work of triads 1-4. It also agreed, on behalf of LDAP, to have oversight of some key generic issues and activities such as access, equality and diversity and the preparation of business cases for resources.

Triad 5 has drawn up a business case for research to produce a map of the digital content universe, based on a map produced by members of the Panel. This study will support the work of LDAP as a whole and the outcomes from the mapping exercise are likely to lead to the Panel reviewing the categories of format for classification of non print content. The research will be commissioned following a tender exercise run by DCMS, and is expected to be completed by the Autumn.

4. LDAP's relationship with the Joint Committee for Legal Deposit (JCLD)

Following the Chair's appointment and prior to the formal announcement of the Panel membership, the first task the Chair undertook was to hold an initial meeting in August 2005 with the joint Chairs of JCLD – both also ex-officio members of LDAP.

LDAP has agreed a protocol with JCLD agreeing how they will work together. The Protocol has informed the work of triads, particularly where the triads focus on areas where some work has already been done by JCLD, namely:

- the voluntary scheme for offline publications (triad 1)
- territoriality (triad 4)
- operation and evaluation of a pilot scheme for e-scholarly journals (triad 2)

5. Overall summary of LDAP's key achievements September 2005- March 2006

- built a team of participative, well informed and hardworking Panel members
- implemented effective working methodologies which will facilitate the standardised production and presentation of recommendations for regulations
- set up focussed small groups with delegated authority to produce evidence, formulate creative ideas and take action
- produced protocol for working with JCLD
- created good working relationships with stakeholder groups
- completed series of fact finding and intelligence gathering visits to publishers and libraries
- produced business case for production of digital universe map to clarify scope of work on e-journals and websites
- agreed to encourage the Legal Deposit Libraries to scale up their operation of the voluntary scheme for deposit of offline material to widen evidence base for future judgments

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Limb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Ann Limb Chair Legal Deposit Advisory Panel 31 March 2006