

OVAL Project Steering Group Meeting 1 – 28th February 2011

Minutes

Introduction of members and apologies

Apologies:

Simon Jackson – Head of Learning and Information Services at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC)

Present:

Matt De Bono – Manson Publishing: small publishing company, veterinary and human medicine titles, colour atlas style, case based and self-assessments

Liz Mossop – lecturer at the University of Nottingham Veterinary School, originally involved with WikiVet and other projects in collaboration with the RVC eMedia Unit

Gillian Brown - works for the Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine (MEDEV), one of the founding members of WikiVet (WV)

Robert Taylor – CABI veterinary publishing area, previously collaborated with WV by providing access to literature searches and papers for WV users

Kim Whittlestone – lecturer at the RVC Veterinary Education unit, one of the original WV founding members, interested in integrating technology into veterinary education and how to make WV more educational rather than just a reference source

Barbora Stanikova – recent RVC graduate, involved with WV since the beginning, currently the WV editor, OVAL project officer

Chris Trace – recent RVC graduate, working for the RVC eMedia unit and WV, eLearning resources coordinator

Nick Short – Head of RVC eMedia Unit, one of the main founders of WV, interested in partnerships with other organisations, open access to educational resources

Overview of the project

Collaboration and partnership, WikiVet was set up following from a collaboration of universities for the CLIVE project producing learning resources for students. The hope is to encourage sharing of resources between universities, starting within the UK and hopefully extending beyond. The OER framework will be used to ensure suitability and eligibility of the resources and had been used in the human medical field.

Modern students are more mobile and used to on-line resources thus providing them with easy access to various learning resources from one source will be very beneficial to them.

CABI have previously collaborated with WV by providing access to literature searches via CABAbstracts. This work formed a part of overall idea to get students to think wider, not just key references.

The project hopes to support veterinary education around the world, not just the UK.

The overall aim of the OVAL project is as a pilot study for a scalable model. Currently it is mainly RVC and University of Nottingham but it is hoped that at least Edinburgh and Cambridge would also join.

JISC responsibilities

Accountability, reporting procedures, budget control

Initial project presentation in March (NS and BS attending)

Website for the project – an open page of WV

ACTIONS:

NS to contact JISC coordinator

NS and BS to attend the meeting

BS to start the OVAL webpage on WV

Partner responsibilities

CABI – not for profit organisation owned by countries, has no core funding or shareholders. It earns some income via its publishing of books, databases and some projects. Its main area of involvement is plants/crops but also veterinary.

CABAbstracts – database of published papers

Animal Health and Production Compendium – developed by 20 consortium members including Defra and pharmaceutical companies to cover food animal health and production. The plan is to repurpose these into WV to raise profile about information resources and make the content more relevant to WV users. The content can then be integrated in teaching and would help in information skills.

They obtain some profit from the publishing area but open resources are good for encouraging people to use their material.

VetMed Resource contains access to CABAbstracts and the Animal Health and Production Compendium datasheets. Researches provided the datasheets according to a given template. Picture copyright remained with the source. OIE data updates every year. Text in the compendium is OK to copy for reports, teaching or powerpoints. Image copyright issue will need to be reassessed with respect to the Creative commons license on WV.

Manson Publishing – mainly for early post-graduate level of readers, many books are available as eBooks (mainly pdf format) but form only small proportion of sale compared to physical books.

Sample questions are available on WV now, will be accessed via various categories from different routes.

ACTIONS:

BS and RT to organise a meeting to discuss the Compendium resource

MDB and CT to agree on suitable format of the source from which samples will be taken

Work Packages and timeline

WP1 – routine project management, reporting etc.

WP2 – BS and CABI/Manson to identify suitable source material, focus groups with students/recent graduates to be formed (RVC/Nottingham)

WP3 – OER toolkit (needs to be adapted for veterinary use), two graduates repurposing content

WP4 – expert review for educational value, focus group from relevant audience and academics, accessibility

WP5 – deliverables – samples of textbooks, metatagging, easy to search for, peer review

WP6 – dissemination: conferences/WV user base; initial press release to announce the collaboration

ACTIONS:

NS and BS to do a press release for project commencement

Personnel recruitment

Nick Short – project manager – 1/5 days per week

Barbora Stanikova – project officer – full time

Chris Trace/Katy Thompson graduate workers – up to full time

Other

IVIS – has many useful resources but they are not very well organised, the site is hard to navigate

User research – may be do a research into how often resources like flashcards are used and how users get to certain places on the site (click through).

Screen reading – people are more likely to skim through content rather than read a whole page from top to bottom. Attention span dropped a lot now in general and long texts are no longer user-friendly.

Layering may provide a useful way of 'bite size' information but the user will not be aware of how many layers are left before they reach the end of the topic.

Open access for commercial resources

Image and other content licensing must be agreed at the start.

Date for the next meeting – Doodle document to be set up by BS