



Memorandum of Understanding

Eduserv

and

Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association (UCISA)

14th January 2010

Parties to the Memorandum

Eduserv

Eduserv is a not-for-profit organisation with the charitable mission to realise the benefits of IT for learning and research. It does this by offering specialised services to universities and colleges and by developing skills, knowledge and infrastructure in other markets to apply to institutions' requirements. Any surplus generated is used to fund and disseminate research and develop existing and new services.

UCISA

UCISA is a membership organisation representing those responsible for delivering information systems and technology services in universities, colleges and related institutions.

UCISA exists to promote excellence in the application of information systems and services in support of teaching, learning, research and administration in higher and further education.

Its aims are:

1. To identify best practice and to spread its use through –
 - the organisation of conferences, seminars and workshops;
 - the promotion and support of collaboration between institutions;
 - the publication, including electronic publication, of material;
 - the promotion of development and research.
2. To inform and support policy making processes within institutions and nationally on the cost effective application of information systems and services.

Purpose of the Memorandum

This memorandum builds on previous joint activities of Eduserv and UCISA. It provides a framework for the organisations to work co-operatively and collaboratively with the aim of maximising the benefit of their endeavours for their shared constituency of universities and colleges. It also seeks to record the roles and commitments that each party is willing to adopt in making this understanding.

Period of Understanding

It is intended that this memorandum will provide a shared understanding of both organisations' interactions for the next three years. The understanding can be altered or terminated by mutual consent at any time.

Shared Aims

UCISA and Eduserv seek to help universities and colleges make the best use of their IT. The particular areas of common interest currently are:

- 1) Access and identity management requirements.
- 2) Simple and economical licensing of software.
- 3) The provision of content management services.
- 4) The provision of hosting capacity and associated services.
- 5) The identification and dissemination of good practice.

Approaches and Activities

Both parties agree to work together for their mutual benefit on the areas identified above to:

- 1) identify and facilitate the specification of the requirements for the software and IT services required by UK universities and colleges now and in the future;
- 2) realise the optimum outcome for universities and colleges from interaction and involvement with suppliers to the sector;
- 3) generate awareness of initiatives and beneficial agreements and to publicise the valuable work conducted by the other party;
- 4) identify and promote good practice across the sector.

The above will be achieved through collaboratively working to provide clear messaging, providing speaking opportunities at relevant events, and through explicit recognition of the value created by each party in communications. A schedule of activities will be drawn up to ensure that a programme of work can be delivered with the resources available. Intellectual property of any outputs defined in the schedule shall be jointly owned by UCISA and Eduserv unless otherwise stated in the schedule of activities.

Specific agreed actions as part of this understanding are:

- 1) Eduserv will continue to provide sponsorship and support the UCISA good practice award for 2010 to 2012 based on the level of commitment for 2009.
- 2) UCISA will invite Eduserv to the relevant committees and groups to facilitate new initiatives and agreements. Eduserv will provide updates and reports for those groups that are attended.
- 3) Eduserv will invite UCISA to have at least one representative at relevant steering groups/development groups.
- 4) UCISA and Eduserv will re-establish regular meetings to jointly represent the interests of universities and colleges to key suppliers to include Adobe, Microsoft and Oracle.

In entering into this understanding UCISA and Eduserv recognise that both organisations have particular knowledge, skills and approaches from which universities and colleges benefit. By working together, we seek to use our special relationship to increase the value we both create.

This MoU is signed to record intent but does not create a legally binding agreement.

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Stephen Butcher, Chief Executive
Eduserv

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Peter Tinson, Executive Secretary
UCISA

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