



The use and relevance of web 2.0 tools for researchers

Call for expressions of interest

The Research Information Network (RIN) is looking to commission research to study the use and relevance of web 2.0 tools for UK researchers across different disciplines, and to explore the implications for the future of scholarly communications.

The RIN is making available £90,000 for this project, which is intended to run from December 2008 to September 2009.

The RIN envisages that the study will investigate the extent of adoption of different web 2.0 tools in different subject fields and disciplines, and the demographic characteristics of the researchers who use them. It will enquire into the factors that influence researchers to adopt and use web 2.0 tools, and conversely the factors that prevent, constrain or discourage usage.

Moreover, the study will explore whether and how web 2.0 tools are changing researchers' behaviour in significant ways, and what implications this might have for researchers, institutions, librarians, information professionals and funders.

It will seek evidence on whether web 2.0 tools are:

- making data easier to share, verify and re-use, or otherwise facilitating more open scientific practices;
- changing discovery techniques or enhancing the accessibility of research information;
- changing researchers' publication and dissemination behaviour, (for example, due to the ease of publishing work-in-progress and grey literature);
- changing practices around communicating research findings (for example through opportunities for iterative processes of feedback, pre-publishing, or post-publication peer review).

Following the outcome of this call (for which nothing more than an indication of interest is required), the RIN will issue an invitation to tender to those who have expressed an interest. A full project specification and tendering requirements will be issued then.

**The deadline for responses to this call is Monday 3 November 2008.
Responses and any enquiries should be directed to aaron.griffiths@rin.ac.uk.**