PLUS newsletter

About the KB+ newsletter

The newsletter will keep you updated with information related to KB+, details of events we are running and aspects of KB+ functionality.

Please let us know what type of information you find useful and would like to see included by mailing us at: knowledgebaseplus@jisc.ac.uk

About Knowledge Base+

Knowledge Base+ (at **jisc-collections.ac.uk/KnowledgeBasePlus**) is a Jisc service within the digital content and discovery directorate.

Knowledge Base+ is a shared service which aims to help UK libraries manage their e-resources more efficiently by providing accurate publication, subscription, licence and management information.
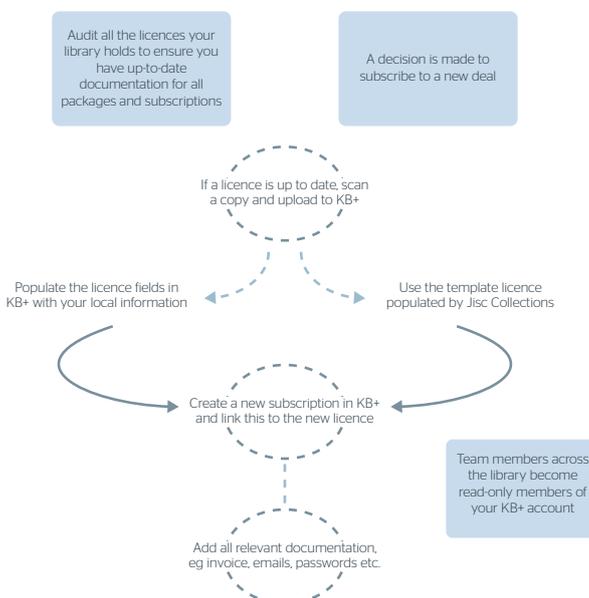
News

We are holding a KB+ One Day Workshop in London on Wednesday 11th November. See **jisc-collections. ac.uk/KnowledgeBasePlus/News- and-events/Events-and-training/KB- training-workshop** for further details and to book a place. As we start to plan dates and venues for next year's Workshops, we would love to hear your suggestions for locations. Please email us at: **knowledgebaseplus@jisc.ac.uk**

We have been testing and gathering feedback from the community for several months on KB+ Release 5. The new release includes further improvements to the general usability of the system and to the display of information. We have updated and enhanced the Licence Comparison Tool to encompass more licence terms, and the public export page has also been revamped, making it easier to navigate our continually expanding title lists. New features include the ability to compare your own licences. Further details are available in our updated user guides (see link at bottom of this newsletter). The date for Release 5 will be announced shortly.

We are looking for institutions to help test and give feedback on our new developments on financial information, ebook decision support tool and tracking features. If you are able to help please email us at: **knowledgebaseplus@jisc.ac.uk**.

Share key licence information across your organisation

- Audit all the licences your library holds to ensure you have up-to-date documentation for all packages and subscriptions
- A decision is made to subscribe to a new deal
- If a licence is up to date, scan a copy and upload to KB+
- Populate the licence fields in KB+ with your local information
- Use the template licence populated by Jisc Collections
- Create a new subscription in KB+ and link this to the new licence
- Team members across the library become read-only members of your KB+ account
- Add all relevant documentation, eg invoice, emails, passwords etc.

KB+ use cases

At the start of 2015 research was carried out to discover how the service was being used by the KB+ HE community. A number of institutions were interviewed about their approach to, and experience of, KB+. A set of use cases is available at: **jisc-collections.ac.uk/KnowledgeBasePlus/Help/Use-cases**

These provide real life examples of KB+ use and the benefits it provides. Each use case explores a key function of KB+, such as the sharing of licence information, the evaluation of subscriptions etc. They highlight common problems and show how to use KB+ to help resolve these issues. For example, KB+ has helped track key information about licences. The system also has the functionality to share this information easily across multiple teams, essential for some institutions. As a result, 'there's one place that everyone can go to and they all know where the information is'.

KB+: A German perspective

At the 11th Northumbria Conference in July Benjamin Ahlborn from Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen, Germany gave a fascinating talk on their evaluation of KB+ within the German academic libraries' ecosystem. His talk, entitled 'A bird in the hand is better than two in the bush', focused on making best use of the functions that KB+ currently provides, bearing in mind that for these institutions the benefits of next generation library platforms may not be fully realised for e-resource management for a few years.

Benjamin discussed the need for a solution to the problem of institutions using a combination of various tools to help manage e-resources, for example spreadsheets, email, library management system etc, and stressed the importance of ensuring information is not duplicated. His concern reflects some of the core principles that KB+ was founded upon.

His talk encompassed both the advantages and limitations of KB+, and it was interesting to see Bremen's approach in seeking a national rather than a local solution. Benjamin also mentioned the benefits of a communal approach in building and maintaining the knowledge base, one which echoes our experience in the UK. By drawing on the help of the UK community in highlighting errors or omissions in the knowledge base, we continue to enhance the quality of our information and provide content that is useful to everyone.

The slides from Benjamin's presentation are available on the Northumbria Conference website at: york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/information-directorate/northumbria-conference/presentations

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KB+ editing core status

In response to the JUSP (http://jusp.mimas.ac.uk) and KB+ community's request for further integration between the two services, we are now pleased to provide a new feature to save time and resource.

You are now able to mark a title as core within KB+ and this information is then shared with the JUSP service on a regular basis. You also now have the flexibility to mark a title as core with an open-ended date meaning you only need to update once the title is no longer core. The inclusion of a date range when marking a title can provide a useful overview of which titles are currently core, or were once core, within a package.

See our KB+ Usage Statistics (JUSP) user guide for further details – jisc-collections.ac.uk/Global/KB+%20userguides/KB+_%20JUSP%2020150526.xps

Thank you to all the institutions that have tested this new feature and provided valuable feedback.

Find out what **Knowledge Base+** can do for your library today

Contact us:

Support: knowledgebaseplus@jisc.ac.uk

Twitter: @JISCKBPlus

Blog: knowledgebaseplus.wordpress.com

Screencasts: jisc-collections.ac.uk/KnowledgeBasePlus/Help/Video-screencasts

User guides: jisc-collections.ac.uk/KnowledgeBasePlus/Help/User-guides

For more information about the Jisc digital content and discovery directorate: jisc.ac.uk/content

Our next newsletter will be sent out in December 2015. If you have any comments on this newsletter, or would like to contribute to the next one, please contact us.

Digital solutions for UK education and research

Jisc