

## BIOME - THE LIVING HUB

THANKS TO JOHN KERRIEMUIR OF OMNI FOR  
THE INFORMATION

Looking for quality resources in the health, medical and life sciences? BIOME will cover plants, animals, patients, agriculture, pharmaceutical sciences, medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary sciences, agriculture, forestry information, the natural world, clinical sciences, and much, much more...

BIOME will build on the experiences, skills and content of the established OMNI service (providing half a decade of biomedical informatics services), and expand to cover all areas within the health, life and medical sciences.

The service will be coordinated by the University of Nottingham, where OMNI is based, and will be a Hub within the Resource Discovery Network (RDN). The service will be consortium based, and OMNI is joined by a formidable range of high profile partners and content providers from the UK health, medical and life science sectors. These are:

- the Natural History Museum, who will also host the Natural World component of the service
- CTI Biology, at the University of Liverpool
- the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
- Oxford University
- Reading University
- BRIL - the BBSRC Research Institutes Librarians organisation
- the Royal Free Hospital

These partners will bring invaluable subject-based skills, expertise and profile, and are already participating in the development of BIOME.

The hub will offer several different types of services:

1. Catalogues of resource descriptions that can be searched or browsed. These catalogues can also be cross-searched in a variety of arrangements as appropriate to the sub-communities within the life, medical and health sciences. The catalogues will be populated by the project partners, and a combination of paid and volunteer effort.

*"BIOME will build  
on the  
experiences,  
skills and content  
of the established  
OMNI service"*

2. Cross-searching of BIOME maintained catalogues of resource descriptions, and external catalogues that occupy the same subject domains. Through collaborative partnerships, mostly engineered by the two largest BIOME partners, we would envisage a wide range of mutual interoperability efforts over a period of time. OMNI has been in contact with several other catalogue providers in mainland Europe, such as NOVAGate, and is very optimistic about enhanced resource discovery access being made available from BIOME

3. Value-added services. Over the longer term development of BIOME, it is envisaged that other services, such as databases, collections of data, and mirrors of appropriate resources will be made available. Some of these will be "stand alone" services, whereas others, where their content format, type, subject range and storage technology are appropriate, will be integrated into service and catalogue interoperability arrangements. It should be noted that OMNI already maintains several such services, such as the CME database, DERWEB image description catalogue, the official JANET mirror of the NHS IT strategy resource, and the PHI web site.

---

## LIS-NURSING: AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Lis-nursing is now a truly international resource for librarians involved with nursing, midwifery and health care. With 212 members from 12 different countries Libraries for Nursing (and especially Karen Smith the LfN committee member who is the main list owner) can really say that we've made a contribution to world-wide nursing librarianship! If you're not already a member of this quiet, but valuable list Send a message to:

**mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk**

with this command in the body of your message:

*join lis-nursing firstname lastname*

Lis-nursing is an opportunity for those of us who are relatively "geographically" isolated, or the only members within our organisation concerned with nursing information, to feel that we are part of a wider community.

*"Lis-nursing...  
with 212  
members from  
over 12 different  
countries!"*