Vetgate: a quality evaluated gateway to networked resources in animal health

3ICAHIS 4 July 2000, London

Tom Roper : t.roper@rcvs.org.uk
Today's presentation

- Why Vetgate?
- Some history
- The current structure
- How it will all work
- The future
Why Vetgate?

• Concerns about quality
  - Sheer volume of information
  - Ephemeral nature of much information
  - Ease of self-publishing
    • the personal home page phenomenon
  - Lack of peer review or editorial and refereeing processes
Why Vetgate? (2)

• Concerns about popular search tools
  – poor quality metadata
  – most are indiscriminate, quality is not an issue
  – output lacks context
  – it’s easy to find too many hits
In principio erat OMNI

- [http://omni.ac.uk](http://omni.ac.uk)
- E-lib programme: proposal in 1994
- Launched in 1996
- “a gateway to Internet resources in medicine, biomedicine, allied health, health management and related topics”
Le vice anglais

- Acronym soup:
  - OMNI, DNER, RDN, NLPN, JISC, EMC, EEVL, HUMBUL, SOSIG........
From OMNI to BIOME

- How can we extend the model of the gateway?
- JISC Committee for Electronic Information
  - development programme “translating successful projects into services, large scale resource discovery, hybrid libraries and digital preservation.”
- 1998 - call for proposals
- Resulted in the creation of the RDN (http://www.rdn.ac.uk/)
The structure

Resource Discovery Network

- BIOME
- EMC
- SOSIG
- Humbul
- Psigate
The structure (2)

- AgriFor
- BioResearch
- Natural Selection
- OMNI
- Vetgate
The gateways

- Gateways
  - catalogues of descriptions of quality Internet resources
    - focused on particular subject areas
    - added services

- Quality control
  - selected using clear, published guidelines
OMNI, BIOME and quality

- Resource evaluation:
  - [http://omni.ac.uk/agec/](http://omni.ac.uk/agec/)

- Quality criteria:
  - [http://omni.ac.uk/agec/evalguid.html](http://omni.ac.uk/agec/evalguid.html)
BIOME partners

- Natural History Museum
- CTI Biology
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
- Oxford University
- Reading University
- BRIL - the BBSRC Research Institutes Librarians organisation
- The Royal Free Hospital
- University of Nottingham
What will BIOME do? (1)

- catalogues of internet resource descriptions that can be searched or browsed individually or across the five subject gateways
- hosting of databases, collections of data and mirrors of appropriate resources outreach and training activities to support the use of BIOME and the Resource Discovery Network
- training
What will BIOME do? (2)

- BIOME web site
  - cross-browse all gateways by classification scheme
  - cross-search all gateways
  - link to other Hubs, RDN and BIOME gateways

- Gateways - individual identities
  - browse using classification scheme, thesaurus
  - search by free text
  - categories such as mailing lists, journals etc.
  - added services
    - browsing by species, dental image database etc.
Vetgate Partners

• Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (marketing and promotion)
• Royal Veterinary College (content providers)
• University of Nottingham (content providers, technical and administrative support, project management)
Vetgate audience

- Veterinary surgeons, lecturers and students
- Veterinary nurses and other para-veterinary professionals
- Other people involved in animal health
- Animal health researchers and scientists
- Producers and suppliers of veterinary goods, services and information
Finding and organising new resources

• Finding:
  – Scout Report:
    • http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/
  – Internet Resources Newsletter:
    • http://www.hw.ac.uk/libWWW/im/im.html
• Organising: NML/LC, CABI Thesaurus
Guidelines

- What goes in, who is it aimed at?
  - BIOME Collection Development Policy
    - http://biome.ac.uk/guidelines/collection/

- Evaluating the resources
  - BIOME Evaluation Guidelines
    - http://biome.ac.uk/guidelines/eval/

- Cataloguing the resource
  - BIOME Cataloguing Guidelines
    - http://biome.ac.uk/guidelines/cat
Create a template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Template Type</th>
<th>Please select the MAIN hublot for this record</th>
<th>Alternative hublots that may be interested in this record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>OMNI</td>
<td>OMNI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>The Natural World</td>
<td>The Natural World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterarchive</td>
<td>Vetgate</td>
<td>Vetgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Bosereach</td>
<td>Bosereach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agitfer</td>
<td>Agitfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The old interface for users

OMNI: Organising Medical Networked Information
The UK's gateway to high quality biomedical Internet resources

Quick search [Please read our disclaimer]

Enter words such as angina or phrases such as "heart disease"

Recent key developments
The OMNI databases were updated on Wednesday, May 11th 2000. We now describe 4509 records.

15th Coming Soon! The OMNI service will be re-launched in Summer 2000 with a new design.
Vetgate training

- One workshop already held (jointly organised by OMNI, RCVS and RVC
- Next workshop in September, with AHIS (UK & Ireland)
Progress so far

- >6,000 resources catalogued across the gateways
- Official launch in November at the Royal Society (unofficially it will go live well before that)
Future

- Cross-sectorality:
  - Peoples Network
    http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/
  - National Electronic Library for Health:
    http://www.nelh.nhs.uk

- Sustainability