Enhancing Accessibility to Library Electronic Resources:

1) Outline the project or initiative and what makes it innovative and inspiring (max 300 words).

This initiative, which is ongoing, concerns moving university staff and students from accessing Electronic Library Resources (eBooks, eJournals, collections etc) via an Athens account to accessing them using their institutional user names and passwords. This initiative is innovative within the UHI context because it uses open source software, and proprietary software (integrated into the university computer network) to ensure users no longer have to rely on Athens accounts to access electronic resources. This gives students and staff easier access to the electronic resources because they no longer have to remember their Athens user names and passwords. It also removes the burden of creating, renewing and managing individual Athens accounts from Academic Partner Librarians.

Although this initiative started prior to the 18 month time frame I believe it should be recognised because access has to be set up for each electronic resource whenever a new one becomes available.

2) Detail how the project or initiative was delivered, from the planning stage through to its successful conclusion (max 300 words). Include details of timing* and funding.

The initial planning stage involved Alistair working with UHI's Electronic Resources Manager (Elizabeth McHugh) to identify the Electronic Resources (eResources) that would be affected by the change from being accessed via Athens to being accessed via the new routes. Alistair's background is IT rather than academic libraries so he had to familiarise himself with the new, unfamiliar, library terminology. The electronic resources suppliers were contacted by the Electronic Resources Manager (as she had the personal contacts and relationships with the suppliers) and the process of enabling access to be set up using UHI institutional user names and passwords began. This involved, and continues to involve, Alistair working with the IT departments of the suppliers and then, with the Electronic Resources Manager, ensuring that the access is continually maintained. This initial period took about 7 months to complete before the 'go live' date.

The second stage in the process involved transferring over those resources where 'personalisations' were involved. Personalizations are those eResources that allowed uses to create their own accounts within the eResource and save items to those accounts – referencing tools being an example. This took a further 12 months.

The final stage in the project involves Alistair working with the IT department of new eResource suppliers to set up access to the resources via the software and using institutional user names and passwords.

There has been no external funding for this intitiative.

3) **Outline the project or initiative's outcome(s) within the university and beyond with relevant supporting evidence, metrics or testimony where appropriate (max 400 words).**

The outcome for students has been, and is, that there is more seamless access to electronic resources for students in the university, both on and off campus. For those eResources that are accessible via this route (some have to be accessed off campus via MyUHI because of supplier restrictions), users only have to log into one eResource each time their browser is open. As long as the browser remains open they can click on links to other eResources and be taken direct to the user platform – subject to supplier restrictions. This is for accessing resources both on and off campus. This ensures that eResources are more integrated into the university network. It also ensures that UHI does not have to pay a subscription cost to Eduserv (who manage Athens), and this saves the UHI £4,610 plus vat at 2014 – 15 prices.