

## Research Support Libraries Group

Minutes of the first meeting of the Research Support Libraries Group held on Wednesday 11 July 2001 at the HEFCE London office, Centre Point.

### Attendees

<b>Members:</b>	Prof. Brian Follett (Chair) Prof. Michael Anderson Mr Bahram Bekhradnia Ms Lynne Brindley Dr Reginald P Carr Mr Andrew Green Ms Mary Heaney Prof. Arthur Lucas Ms Karen Stanton
<b>By invitation:</b>	Mr Michael Crump
<b>Observer:</b>	Ms Leanne Holborn (HEFCW)
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Mr Paul Hubbard (HEFCE) Mr Will Naylor (HEFCE)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Prof. Robert Burgess Prof. Ian Halliday Ms Vanessa Conte (HEFCE)

### Introduction

1. The Chair invited members to introduce themselves to the Group.
2. The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the Group and gave a brief introduction to its role. The Chair stressed that the Group should concentrate on the interests of researchers, consider issues at a national level, and tackle the “big questions” facing research libraries.

### Membership and terms of reference **RSLG 01/01**

3. The Chair invited the Group to consider whether its membership was sufficiently representative of its main stakeholder communities. In discussion it was agreed that:
  - a. another full member of the Group should be sought from the humanities research community. Two names were suggested and the Chair would take this forward.

- b. it would be possible to draw a wider range of expertise, including in particular on technical matters and academic publishing, through subgroups and less formal advisory groups reporting to the main Group; and as appropriate to invite members of these to attend particular main Group meetings.

4. The Chair introduced the Group's term of reference, which had been endorsed by the sponsoring bodies. He invited the Group to consider whether these fully defined the areas of work it would need to cover. The Group agreed that

- a. the terms of reference as currently worded gave an adequate account of its field of enquiry, though the need to develop business models to underpin any recommendations was not made explicit;

- b. they might however be better presented to stakeholders with a preamble referring to the broader political context and making reference in particular to the need for all libraries to serve the broader community.

5. This led to some discussion of the extent to which the Group should consider the role of research support libraries in relation to teaching and learning and also the relationship between research support libraries and the public library service. The Group agreed that these elements should be borne in mind as important contextual elements, but that it was not the core focus of the Group to consider them in detail.

6. The Group raised the matter of disseminating the Group's work to the sector, commenting that previous strategic groups had not always given the necessary priority to external communications. The Group asked the secretariat to explore an appropriate approach to communications, in particular the possibility of setting up a website.

#### **Group vision statement and workplan RSLG 01/02**

7. The Chair invited the Group to consider whether the vision statement was an accurate reflection of the views of the Group. This led to some discussion of the overall objectives of the Group, in which several additions to the vision statement were agreed. The Group asked the secretariat to amend the vision statement accordingly.

#### **Consultation with stakeholders RSLG 01/03**

8. The Chair reported on the consultation exercise and asked the Group to consider whether the list of stakeholders was comprehensive. The Group asked the secretariat to invite several more organisations to participate.

#### **Research studies RSLG 01/04**

9. The secretariat reported on the tender for the researchers use of library and information resources study, and invited the Group to comment on the proposed methodology. In

discussion it was agreed that the specification as currently worded was adequate, though the need to identify researchers needs in the future should be made more explicit to the project consultants.

10. The secretariat introduced the studies on models of collaborative collection management in the UK and internationally.

11. The Chair invited the Group to consider whether any further research should be commissioned, or other information sought, to contribute to the Group's deliberations. In discussion it was agreed that

- a. the secretariat should provide more trend data on UK research libraries;
- b. informal links with organisations in other domains, including museums, should be pursued.

#### **Background information RSLG 01/05**

12. In discussion of the background paper on the RSLP, it was agreed that a more detailed review of the programme should be presented to the next meeting of the Group.

13. In consideration of the background paper on the DNER, the Group agreed to invite a leading expert on electronic libraries to attend a future meeting. A name was suggested and the secretariat would take this forward.

14. The Group agreed that the background paper on the BL/HE task force should be made available outside the Group, and also that a representative of the RSLP should be invited to discuss the UKNUC Feasibility Study for a National Union Catalogue at the next meeting. A name was suggested and the secretariat would take this forward.

15. The secretariat introduced the paper on comparative library statistics. In discussion the Group agreed that:

- a. the data was a potentially valuable indicator of the disparity in library provision between the UK and USA, although further scrutiny of the data would be required before it could be used by the Group. The secretariat would take this forward;
- b. more information should be sought about the services provided to research libraries by the British Library Distributed National Collection. The secretariat would take this forward.

#### **Key Issues RSLG 01/06 – 01/08**

16. The Chair introduced the proposed sub-group on e-science and asked the Group to propose a Chair and members. The Group agreed that a member of the Group should chair

the sub-group and a name was suggested. Several more names were suggested for the sub-group's membership and the secretariat would take this forward.

17. The Chair informed the Group about the JISC sub-group on scholarly publishing. The Group agreed that a collaborative approach with JISC was sensible, though the need to represent the national libraries on the sub-group should be made explicit.

18. The Chair introduced the proposed sub-group on collaborative collection management and invited the Group to consider whether the remit for the sub-group was too broad. The Group agreed that the remit was too broad and asked the secretariat to consider separating it into several separate work packages, each managed with the assistance of an external expert.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Tuesday 2 October 2001, starting at 12.30pm at the British Library, St Pancras, London.**