

# **Collaboration in research library provision: examples in the UK**

## **Background to the Study**

1. As for the other study.

## **Purpose of the study**

2. Against this background, the purpose of the study is to identify and describe any observable cases in the UK where research libraries are engaged in collaborative action in response to these issues. Cases where action has been considered or instituted, but is not now in place, would also be of interest for the lessons that may be learnt from them. The study would be used by the Group to inform its discussions and as a basis for deciding whether to enter into further dialogue with particular bodies involved in study cases.

## **Objectives**

3. The study therefore aims to identify, describe and analyse sufficient cases of collaboration in research library provision to illuminate the full range of relevant UK experience. The focus should be on identifying the range of available experience and the lessons to be learnt from this rather than the volume of activity. In the cases selected for analysis it should, as far as possible:
  - a. Identify the events or pressures leading to collaboration.
  - b. Identify and consider the stated aims and objectives of those instituting the collaboration and the services or materials to which it applied.
  - c. Identify and consider the management arrangements put in place, and any effects these have upon the outcome.
  - d. Identify any evidence for costs incurred in setting up the collaboration.
  - e. Assess - in quantitative terms as far as possible - the success and effectiveness of the collaboration, including in relation to the achievements of the participants working alone.
  - f. Identify any transferable success criteria and to lessons to be learnt.
4. The study report should analyse and present the body of observed practice in the light of these questions and of the Group's overall approach set out above. It should identify well documented cases of transferable good practice (and cases from which there are clear lessons to be learnt). It should also identify any cases of collaboration which appear particularly to merit further investigation in depth.

## **Scope and method**

5. It will be important for those undertaking the study to determine the scope of their work, and to identify appropriate methods of enquiry, having regard to their knowledge of existing practice in the UK as well as to the Group's frame of reference and our strategic focus. This will be a desk-based study. It will involve a comprehensive review of the professional literature and it is expected that a range of key stakeholders will be contacted by telephone and email to elicit up to date information. We recognise that there may be interesting case which are not as yet well documented: the aim is to summarise as far as possible what is known so that the Group may decide what further enquiry may be merited.

#### **Timescale and outputs**

6. The study should provide a report for discussion by the Group, listing identified cases of possible interest and summarising what is know about each of these, by [*either 14 September; or by 10 November with a progress report on 14 Sept*].