

Extending the network: libraries and their partners, 17 au 20 juin 2003
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How can university and national libraries achieve deeper collaboration?

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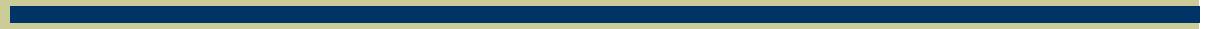
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**“How can university and national
libraries achieve deeper
collaboration?”**

Brian K. Follett

The Context

- The knowledge economy
- Increased national R&D
- Improved research infrastructure
- THIS SHOULD INCLUDE ACCESS TO WORLD-CLASS “RESEARCH INFORMATION RESOURCES” AT A REASONABLE COST



Current challenges to provision

- ◆ Model of local library plus national library no longer fit for purpose
- ◆ Electronic provision to desktop
- ◆ E-science + grids
- ◆ Growth in research volume unabated
- ◆ Costs outstripping inflation, no true market

What should we do - leave it to market forces alone? No!

- Large number of universities/institutes
- Too dependent upon publishers
- Academic researcher “not interested”
- Access less if research concentrates
- Preservation in electronic
- Step change in levels of cooperation

Research Libraries Support 2001-2003

Remit was “to make recommendations on a national strategic framework and mechanisms for promoting collaboration in, and integration of library collections their long-term management.”

Universities plus British Library

Research Libraries Network (RLN)

- Convinced in advantages of a national strategic framework
- Concentrate upon strategic functions where joint working better than individual working
- Work with others.

Report

- ◆ March 2003 on <http://rslg.ac.uk>
- ◆ New Rev. Acad. Lib. 8, 1-174, 2002
- ◆ *“Devil is in the principle, not the detail!”*
- ◆ Key issue is whether to establish an RLN which tries to shape future of research information provision and encourages much deeper library cooperation

Overarching roles of RLN

- To determine strategy and priorities
- Much more than electronic world
- Develop comprehensive programme of work & obtain funding
- Advocacy: national & international

Tasks of an RLN 1

- Not difficult to list.
- Many started, none finished!
- Led by researcher need
- Cannot do everything, focus
- Quick win or two will be needed

Tasks of an RLN 2

- ◆ **Access**
- ◆ **Electronic research collections**
- ◆ **Discovery tools**
- ◆ **Collaboration in collection management**
- ◆ **Retention and preservation**
- ◆ **Scholarly communication**
- ◆ **Leadership**