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Extending the network: libraries and their partners, 17 au 20 juin 2003
32^e congrès LIBER

How can university and national libraries achieve deeper collaboration?

FOLLETT, Brian K.

UK Research Libraries Support Group

FOLLETT, Brian K. How can university and national libraries achieve deeper collaboration? In *32nd LIBER Annual General Conference, Extending the network: libraries and their partners, Rome, du 17 au 20 juin 2003* [en ligne]. Format PDF.

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UK Research Libraries Support Group

**“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**