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Strategy and reality: the role of a national research library association in the west



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Society of College, National and University Libraries

Introduction

- Librarians are natural collaborators
- Associations form spontaneously
- An introduction to SCONUL

SCONUL

- Founded in 1950
- 1993: 76 members
- 1994: 124 members
- Independent group of super-research libraries from 1983

Structures

- Collaboration
- Membership (personal)
- Membership (institutional)

The beginnings

- What concerns do we share?
- What can we do together about them?
- What must we do together?
- For libraries or for their users?

Mechanisms

- Expert groups
- Working groups
- Paid staff/secretariat

Expert groups: examples

- Architecture
- Legal matters
- Statistics

Working groups: examples

- 'Research support' strategy
- 'Teaching and learning' strategy
- Visions of the future

The search for strategy

- Visions of the future
- Lobbying of the government
- Collaboration with government agencies
- Lobbying EU institutions



Foundations of strategy

- Statistics
- Success with 'operational' projects

Not to be forgotten

- International collaboration
- Internal diplomacy
- Communication