

CURL

Research Support Task Force

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Remit

- The Task Force will collaborate with other organisations to create models that will enable libraries to demonstrate their value to both the organisation and to individual researchers. It will also develop skills programs to ensure that staff are fully equipped to demonstrate their value in research support.

Terms of Reference

- Identify and map existing provision and significant gaps in the information infrastructure, content and services supporting research
- Recommend priorities and actions that will promote a coherent national approach to research support
- Explore ways to increase understanding of how the requirements and characteristics of researchers and the research process are changing or might change in the future

Terms of Reference - Continued

- Recommend to the CURL Board initiatives to map researcher needs and promote new models for enhancing support for research
- Support improved models for delivering traditional format materials to researchers and develop new models to support the research process, and identify appropriate skillsets
- Work with relevant groups to identify the skillsets required to improve support for research through the exploitation of special collections and to arrange ways to promote these skills amongst appropriate staff

Members of the Task Force

- **Michele Shoebridge** (Chair until July 2006)
- **Brian Clifford** (Chair since July 2006), Leeds
- **Susan Ashworth**, Glasgow
- **Pat Rogers**, Bristol
- **Stephen Bury**, British Library
- **Liz Davies**, Imperial College
- **Ann-Marie James**, Birmingham
- **Robin Green**, CURL

Questions for consideration by the Task force

- What developments in service provision might result from the changes in user needs and expectations?
- The role of the librarian in the future?
- The skills needed by the librarian in the future?

Surveying the scene

- What will researchers need in the future?
- What are the drivers for change?
- Identify innovative services and approaches to research support

Surveying the scene

- RIN/CURL Study of Researchers use of Libraries
 - Aims to investigate
 - How researchers use library services
 - Researchers expectations of information provision
 - The impact of technological changes
 - The development of Virtual Research Communities
 - The Task Force has
 - Offered advice on the project specification
 - Offered advice to the research team through the Expert Panel
 - Key Perspectives awarded contract

RIN/CURL Study of Researchers use of Libraries

- Literature review
- Analysis of researchers logs
- Web-based survey of researchers
- Web-based survey of LIS community
- Focus groups with researchers
- Focus groups with librarians
- Report to be produced in January 2007.

Special Collections

- Why support special collections?
- What is the purpose of special collections?
- Value to institutions?
- Does the digital age offer scope for new services etc?
- Role of special collections when focus is on themes such as “students really matter” and “research led teaching”
- New approaches to marketing and promotion?
- Examples of good practice/innovation that can be shared?
- New Skills required to meet new needs?

Skills training for Researchers

- Roberts Review has put training of researchers on agenda
- Libraries have been allocated money
- How have they used this money?
- Are there experiences to share?
- Plan to collect information about use of Roberts money and identify good practice that could be disseminated

Future Plans for the Task Force

- Review outcomes of the RIN Survey and other data
- Develop models of best practice
- Identify opportunities and new models
- Identify where skills gaps may exist
- Develop workshops/ training programmes for Library staff to fill skills gap
- Recommendations to CURL Board

What are the drivers for change in research ?

- Demographics
 - Millennium Generation/Digital natives moving through to researcher roles
- Funding Council Priorities
 - Large, interdisciplinary projects, cross-institutional
 - AHRC Review of Postgraduate Funding
- Will Virtual Research Communities be using VREs?
- A metrics based RAE