

Comparison of Strategic Themes for 2003 - 2006 and 2006 - 2008

Summary

There is overlap between the 2003-06 and 2006-08 Plans in the themes 'developing a national framework for research support' and 'resource discovery'. This is to be expected: the delay in the RIN's inception means we are effectively carrying forward the 2003-6 Plan's equivalent theme, and resource discovery has always been a core feature of CURL (though we are now poised to take a new approach to this by explore technologies such as Web services to exploit COPAC's resources).

The 2003-6 Plan contained elements implicitly aimed at improving support for members, such as the Communications Strategy; however, the 2006-8 Plan makes this an explicit theme.

The theme of new approaches to support for research was not part of the 2003-6 Plan. It reflects a perception that roles are changing, that we will work more closely with other academic support services, and that there is the potential to increase our value to researchers and our institutions. It is closely linked with the theme of support for members.

Strategic Plan 2006-2008		Strategic Plan 2003-2006	
3.1 National Framework for Research Support	3.1 (1) Identify and map existing provision and gaps in the information infrastructure, content, and services supporting research.	4.1 National Strategies for Research Support	CURL will also actively contribute to other national initiatives, in particular, Full Disclosure.
	3.1 (2) Agree priorities and actions that will lead to a coherent national approach to research support.	4.4 Digital Content Creation and Curation 4.1 National Strategies for Research Support	CURL will develop and implement a digitisation strategy aimed at facilitating digitisation and digital preservation work at institutional level within a coherent and coordinated national framework. Contribute to the development and implementation of appropriately funded national strategies aimed at coordinating the provision of research information and generating sustainable solutions to the information needs of the research communities.
	3.1 (3) Shape activities undertaken within the CURL Strategic Plan to accord with these priorities.		
3.2. New Approaches to Support for Research	3.2 (1) Work with other organisations to increase knowledge of researchers' need for and use of information resources.		
	3.2 (2) Develop new models to support the research process, and identify appropriate skillsets.		
	3.2 (3) Facilitate opportunities for awareness-raising and skills development amongst information professionals as a means of underpinning new roles.		
	3.2 (4) Work with education and training bodies to promote professional training and development for information professionals.		
3.3 Enhancing Resource Discovery and Delivery	3.3 (1) Scope in collaboration with other partners the future path for resource discovery, and determine a common strategy for development.	4.3 Resource Discovery	Develop electronic resource discovery tools. Revisit the whole resource discovery landscape with a view to identifying innovative, inclusive and sustainable solutions, in particular, in terms of models (types of data, technology, quality control) and services. CURL will also actively contribute to other national

	(2006-2008 Plan)		initiatives, in particular, Full Disclosure. (2003-2006 Plan)
3.3 <i>Enhancing Resource Discovery and Delivery contd.</i>	3.3 (2) Undertake strategic development and exploitation of the CURL database and COPAC in the context of an emerging national - and unified - approach to resource discovery.	4.3 Resource Discovery	Enhance existing activities, such as the CURL record retrieval database and the COPAC resource discovery service, and contribute to the development of the Archives Hub and the e-prints SHERPA project.
	3.3 (3) Support improvement of mechanisms for delivery of traditional materials to researchers.		
	3.3 (4) Contribute to the creation and curation of a national collection of digital research resources.	4.4 Digital Content Creation and Curation	CURL will develop and implement a digitisation strategy aimed at facilitating digitisation and digital preservation work at institutional level within a coherent and coordinated national framework. Identify what is already being done by other organisations and what needs to be done by CURL, on its own or in collaboration with other bodies.
	3.3 (5) Shape further development of a national approach to research resources through collaborative collection management.	4.2 Collab. Resource Management	Explore, test and implement procedures enabling research information providers to engage in deep collaboration with one another in all areas of resource management. Collection mapping, sharing of responsibilities in the areas of acquisition, preservation, digitisation and retention, e.g. as initiated by the CURL-CoFoR project.
3.4 CURL as community: improving support for members	3.4 (1) Enhance the benefits of CURL membership at both member and consortium levels. Particular emphasis will be given to sharing best practice, collaborative working within CURL and with partners, and defining benchmarking standards and performance measures. We will also promote CURL member interests in key areas such as scholarly communication, information policy and professional leadership.	4.5 Comms. & Working Methods	The development of strategic alliances and collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders and sister organisations both in the UK, Ireland and worldwide.
	3.4 (2) Implement a communications and brand strategy designed to extend member engagement, to promote external collaborations, and to emphasise CURL's central role in UK research support.	4.5 Comms. & Working Methods	CURL will develop and implement a communication strategy and working methods within the Consortium aimed at providing a framework for greater engagement from the Members. [CURL] will also seek to provide a framework conducive to appropriate involvement across sectors and domains.
	3.4 (3) Facilitate professional and leadership development and promote networking opportunities for staff engaged in support for research at all levels.		
	3.4 (4) Optimise funding available to sustain CURL's ability to support strategic development on behalf of its members and the wider research community.		
	3.4 (5) Target CURL resources according to priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.		