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The UKRR: a view from the Board

Keynote Item

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The UKRR: a view from the Board



Library

British Library of Political
and Economic Science

Jean Sykes

Summary of presentation

- Principal milestones
- Key themes throughout
- Acknowledging the risks
- Involving the stakeholders
- Complexity of the vision
- Participation in Phase 2 – the LSE perspective
- A personal evaluation

Principal milestones

- CHEMS study for CURL and BL
March - Sept 2005
- BL Conference Dec 2005
- Preparations for bid to HEFCE
- Volunteers for Phase 1 Aug 2006
- Funding awarded Dec 2006
- Second conference Jan 2007
- Advisory Board set up early 2007

Key themes throughout

- Defining the benefits
- Communication and advocacy
- Engaging stakeholders
- Keeping tabs on other projects
- Preparing for conferences
- Constant evaluation
- Working on models
- Keeping the big goal in mind

Acknowledging the risks

- Transparent risk analysis throughout identified potential: lack of interest, lack of high-level support, lack of trust, poor PR, inadequate communication, misrepresentation, unsustainable business model, mid to long-term commitment problems

Involving the stakeholders

- Updates to CURL and SCONUL meetings and mailing lists
- Conferences 2005 and 2007
- Talking to UUK and RG chairs
- Presentations to VC groups
- Talking to HEFCE throughout
- Representative TF and Adv Bd membership

Complexity of the vision

- Chicken and egg scenario
- Range of interests and benefits
- Variety of libraries and collections
- Costs difficult to establish
- Plethora of models (governance, operational, service, business, financial)
- Some surprises in Phase 1

Phase 2: the LSE perspective or two sides of the same coin

- Comprehensiveness of LSE print collections attracts external users...
- ... and external funding
- Shelf space is not an immediate problem
- LSE has signed up with SCONUL as a “reserve copy” holder
- So why bother with Phase 2?

The other side of the coin

- No library can provide for all its researchers' needs
- Every library/university concerned about researchers needs UKRR
- The vision is compelling
- A collaborative approach will safeguard materials for the future
- UKRR provides funds for disposal

Facing both ways

- LSE groups and committees have discussed UKRR
- Shelf space will be an issue in 2015
- A library group is drafting disposal criteria for academic approval
- The School expects to participate in Phase 2 facing both ways
- Both as reserve copy holder and disposer – others will do the same

A personal evaluation

- UKRR is a major achievement
- Difficult issues have not been ducked
- The concept is simple but the realisation complex
- Forward planning has been exemplary
- Advocacy has been embedded from the start