Curl-CoFoR: collaboration for research

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Background to CoFoR

- Established by the CURL Task Force on Resource Management

- Funded from 1\textsuperscript{st} December 2002 until 31\textsuperscript{st} August 2004 – then extended to 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2005. 2005-2006 funded by small voluntary contributions from BL, SSEES, and COSEELIS

- Aims: to test a CCM scheme in Russian and East European Studies, and to develop a set of tools that could be used in other subject areas

- Outcomes: a ten-year partnership agreement signed by 20 research libraries, and a comprehensive toolkit
The CoFoR Structure

- A Project Director and management team, with representatives from CURL, the BL, UCL SSEES Library, Glasgow University Library
- A part-time project manager / administrator
- Part-time IT support staff at UCL SSEES Library to run the website and database
- Part-time project officer at Glasgow to work on research mapping and information gathering
- An academic advisory board
- A professional advisory board

And some good will......
The underlying data

- Data collected for COCOREES
  - Serials listing for 30,000 titles in 52 libraries
  - Set of 80 + collecting policies
  - Common format collection descriptions
  - National desiderata list

- Data collected for CoFoR
  - Statistics on accessions and expenditure
  - Survey of research activity
The partnership agreement

A *positive* statement of support for research collections in Russian and East European Studies, for researchers:

- “To improve the provision of library resources for research in REES in the United Kingdom by widening the range of materials available and ensuring access to them.”

- “To ensure that vital research materials for REES held in UK libraries are properly conserved and systematically retained.”
“To give confidence to partner libraries in their roles and obligations in a national research context, by providing a nationally coordinated framework for the retention, transfer and acquisition of resources within which local decisions on collecting commitments for REES can safely be taken, and to mitigate the consequences for researchers of local pressures on budgets, staffing and space.”
Allocation of commitments

Agreements negotiated separately with each partner library on:
  retention
  transfer
  acquisition.

Broken down by subject and country

Areas of buildup specifically recognised to avoid fossilising collections
Transfer commitment for UCL SSEES Library

*(all as defined in the library’s collection management policy)*

Art/Arch (R/Sov); Cinema (R/CEE); Economics (R/CEE and EU accession – *buildup*); Hist (Poland); Lang (mod R; Belor & Hung lang & lit.; Lit (R C19; Belor, Hung); Pol/Govt (R/CEE – *buildup*); Religion (R culture & religion); Sci/Tech (technology & innovation in CEE – *buildup*); Society (minorities in FSU/CEE); Theatre (R perform. arts); Albanian studies– *buildup*. Romanian studies.
The partners:

- Birmingham UL
- Bodleian Library
- Bradford UL
- Bristol UL
- British Library
- Chatham House Library
- Cambridge UL
- Durham UL
- Edinburgh UL
- Essex UL
- Glasgow UL
- Leeds UL
- LSE Library
- Manchester UL
- National Library of Scotland
- Nottingham UL
- Polish Library
- UCL SSEES Library
- Scott Polar Research Institute
- Taylor Institution, Oxford
Benefits for participating libraries

- Confidence - when making long term collection management decisions
- Space savings - Ability to transfer or discard as appropriate
- Local collections enhanced - Opportunities to acquire rare material through transfers
- Good PR for the collection within the Library
- Financial savings - Use of the desiderata list helps when deciding on expensive acquisitions
Issues arising from CoFoR

- Who maintains the serials data in future?
- Who monitors the agreement?
- Is one copy enough?
- Can the scheme be adapted to support interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research?
- Can collaborative acquisition work?
- How is this type of activity funded?
- How do you measure success?