Research Information Network
CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR LIBRARIANSHIP AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

NOTE FROM THE SECOND MEETING – 4 MAY 2006

Action points in italics

Present:
Jean Sykes (Chair) (London School of Economics)
Stéphane Goldstein (Research Information Network)
Ann-Marie James (University of Birmingham)
Michael Jubb (Research Information Network)
Cédric Laizé (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)
Peter Morgan (University of Cambridge)
Norman Paton (University of Manchester)
Janet Peters (Cardiff University)
Stephen Smith (University of York)
Jackie Van Bueren (Research Information Network)

Apologies
Andrew Booth (University of Sheffield)
Phil Bradley (freelance)
William Kilbride (Archaeological Data Service)
Elizabeth Shepherd (University College London)

1. Minutes of the meeting of 2 February 2006 *(paper RIN/LIS/06/06)*

These were approved.	

2. Matters arising

Further steps to help with Group's **networking** activities: ❒ Production of brief communiqués from meetings, for members to disseminate. ❒ Encouragement to make use of RSS feed on RIN website. ❒ Ensuring ease of navigation on the RIN website.	❒ ***SG*** *to produce brief communiqués from meetings* ❒ ***JP*** *to liaise on RIN's behalf with Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum; Archives Network Wales; and SCONUL Working Group on Information Literacy.*
Nomination of additional Group member from **BAILER** expected soon.	

3. Synthesis of the first round of Consultative Group meetings *(paper RIN/LIS/07)*

Initial commonality of agendas across the four meetings of the first round, but this will change as the Groups increasingly set their own priorities.	
Ideas for developing role of the Groups:	
❒ **Horizon-scanning** and awareness-raising through circulation of material, such as Fred Friend's scholarly communications e-newsletter, and subscription to relevant mailing lists; production of RIN information mailings,	❒ ***A-MJ*** *to send SG details about JISCmail research support list, for members to subscribe to.*

pending the development of interactive functionality on RIN website.	❒ ***SG*** *to arrange for regular RIN information mailings.* ❒ ***SG*** *to ensure that meetings include standing agenda item for members to report on relevant activities and networking.*
❒ Developing awareness of **international issues**, building on the international contacts fostered by the executive team.	
❒ Developing links with the **commercial sector**, e.g. with library resources run by pharmaceutical companies and law firms. Are there libraries covering areas such as engineering? Advantage could be taken of the links that the life sciences and physical sciences groups have with industry.	❒ ***SS*** *to make informal enquiries about library resources in the engineering commercial sector.* ❒ ***SG/MJ*** *to raise issue of commercial sector libraries with the life sciences and physical sciences groups.*
Future activities:	
❒ Initiatives funded by RIN following **suggestions from the consultative groups** are a good idea in principle, but it is not RIN's role to fund grants or to endorse particular projects – unless they are subject to proper independent evaluation. However, there is a strong case for RIN support for events or other networking activities in areas of interest to the groups – as with the forthcoming Data Webs workshop.	❒ ***SG*** *to circulate information asap about the Data Webs workshop*
❒ Potential for consultative groups to look at **standards for software management** – specifically, that relating to information. RIN's input could be to take a strategic view on the cataloguing and indexing of software, along the lines of RIN's work on principles of data management. Such work would need to be undertaken collectively, notably with JISC and the Research Councils; it is understood that RIN does not have the expertise to delve on technical matters – but RIN's forte is to identify priorities which can be taken forward by service providers and others.	❒ ***MJ*** *to raise the issue of software management standards with other consultative groups, and to discuss with JISC and RCs the possibility of joint activity in this area.*
❒ Other possible area of activity, noted briefly: **preservation of images**.	

4. Director's report ***(paper RIN/LIS/06/08)***

❒ Scope for consultative groups to influence the **scholarly communications** agenda being developed by RIN, notably through representation on the expert groups likely to be set up to take forward strands of this work, e.g. on public access to research outputs.	❒ ***MJ*** *to seek timely input and nominations from consultative groups in the context of forthcoming RIN-initiated work on scholarly communications.*
❒ One of RIN's strength lies in seeking to involve researchers in such initiatives as the forthcoming **JSTOR** workshop.	
❒ Opportunities will soon occur to influence the debate about the **future of the RAE** beyond 2008.	❒ ***MJ*** *to seek input from the consultative groups relating to the forthcoming report on*

	the future of the RAE.

5. Digital research data *(paper RIN/LIS/06/09)*

Aside from the content of the draft statement of principle, the key issue now is how to engage with different audiences (data managers, researchers, funders…) about developing and promoting good practice in management of digital research data. The variety of audiences, and of their respective outlooks, presents a particular challenge. Views from the meeting: ❒ Concept is sound, statement of principle is impressive. ❒ Finance: what resources are there for implementing the sort of practice suggested in the document? ❒ There may be scope for funding a small pilot (involving universities and Research Councils) to evaluate how the principles are applied in defined areas, perhaps looking separately at each of the five broad themes in the document. Noted that BBSRC is planning to pilot on the implementation of its own data sharing policy. ❒ There may be a case also for looking at examples from specific institutions, and consulting those individuals who formulate grant proposals. ❒ Need to tap into the expertise of the well-established data centres run/funded by three of the Research Councils. ❒ Is there any possibility of EU funding for moving the agenda forward?	
Discussion confirmed the usefulness of organising, in the first instance, a **workshop with data centre managers**, where emerging ideas might be tested. Others might also be involved, such as the small band of academic data librarians in the UK (at LSE, Edinburgh, Oxford and soon at the British Library), and individuals such as Peter Elias at ESRC.	❒ ***MJ/SG*** *to proceed with arrangements for workshop in the early autumn.* ❒ ***JS*** *to provide further information on academic data librarians.*

6. Researchers' use of academic libraries *(paper RIN/LIS/06/10)*

Proposed survey to follow up on RIN's study on RSLP access funding, to get a better sense of **how researchers are using libraries services**, and how they might expect to use them in future. Comments raised in discussion: ❒ Importance of identifying gaps in service from researchers' perspective. ❒ Getting researchers' perceptions of how they obtain information – important because they often do not realise that such information is provided as a library service. Lack of awareness on the part of researchers could adversely colour their judgement on the continued relevance of librarians – hence importance for the study to draw a distinction between perceptions and actual practice. ❒ It follows that, in evaluating the evolving role of libraries in future, extreme care should be taken not to identify libraries solely with library buildings, but to point to the range of services provided by libraries both on and off site. ❒ Survey should not seek to frame a strategic plan about how	

libraries might develop. ❒ Survey should cover less research-intensive universities, and also researchers outside universities. ❒ Usefulness of identifying researchers' evolving patterns of use, e.g. paper vs. electronic.	
Discussion highlighted the group's view that the survey questionnaire requires very careful wording, and possibly piloting on a small subset, as well as well-defined coverage of its subjects' research disciplines.	❒ ***SG/MJ*** *to reflect group's views in the project specification and to ensure appropriate care in the design of the survey's methodology.*

7. Extending the coverage of online catalogues ***(paper RIN/LIS/06/11)***

Retroconversion is an important issue outside the life and physical sciences for a finite amount of manually-catalogued material. Deduplication, and the consequent need to locate material that may no longer be locally available, provides a further rationale for maintaining momentum with retroconversion. Prioritisation is required to programme remaining work, which provides strong justification for proposed RIN study. At the same time, retroconversion achievements of the past few years needs to highlighted so as to justify resources for additional investment.	❒ ***SG/MJ*** *to proceed with drawing up specification for the study.*

8. Other business

There was none.	

Next meeting: to take place in all likelihood during the week of 9 October 2006 – to be confirmed following consultation with members.