



# Researchers and Libraries

Michael Jubb  
Research Information Network

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## The UK Science Base

- **Successes of the UK research base**
  - “The UK science base is one of the most productive and influential systems of publicly-funded research in the world”  
*Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014*
  - Second only to US in global scientific excellence as measured by citations
  - UK leads G7 in productivity of its research base
  - c. 8.5% share of world publications in science
  
- **Continuing success of research base an essential element in Government strategy to improve the UK’s R&D and innovation performance**
  - Greater connection sought between research and the UK economy and society

# The Role of Information in Research: a Crude Model

- ▣ Defining a set of research questions, issues or problems
- ▣ Identifying relevant existing knowledge
- ▣ Accessing, analysing, and evaluating existing knowledge and data
- ▣ Designing a methodology for generating new knowledge
- ▣ Applying the methodology and discovering new knowledge
- ▣ Combining old and new knowledge to answer research questions and to enhance understanding
- ▣ Disseminating the outcomes of research in a form that is both sustainable and retrievable

## A Vision for the Future?

“We need to re-imagine the library as a resource and as a representation of what a university is”

*David Eastwood, SCONUL Conference,  
November 2006*

“Reinventing the university as a site for understanding and interpreting the world”

*David Eastwood, JISC Conference,  
March 2007*



## Why did we commission this study?

- Commissioned jointly with CURL
- Evidence base for development of policy and strategy
  - What are academic libraries for in a changing world?
  - How are they developing their services and strategies for supporting researchers?
  - How are researchers making use of those services?
  - How might libraries and their services change for the future?

## So What?

- **The communications challenge**
  - How do researchers effectively influence library policy, strategy and services?
  - How can libraries proactively develop their support for research?
  - How do we build more effective communication channels?
  - How do we more effectively engage research institutions in addressing these issues?