

Changing requirements of students and researchers

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This paper will attempt to set the scene for the seminar by considering higher education developments and their impact on the experience of students and researchers. The implications for the design of library space will be identified to help with the planning of different types of projects: new buildings, extensions and the refurbishment and reconfiguration of existing space.

Library space remains a top concern of library directors, who have to respond to increasing demand for accommodation for printed materials, workstations and study seats. Student demand for library provision is also increasing, driven by the growth in numbers of people attending universities, and course requirements for students to use information resources and work in groups. This brings the challenge of accommodating a variety of activities with conflicting requirements (such as noisy and quiet study areas). There is also a trend towards integrating a wider range of support to students, which needs to be accommodated in more flexible buildings.

Electronic information resources have had a major impact on the work patterns of researchers and their use of library provision and space. New collaborative frameworks have also been developed, such as the Research Information Network in the UK, which should improve access to library collections and digital information. A number of new buildings have been designed to encourage collaboration between researchers which provide some signals for the delivery of information services and the design of library space to support research activities.

Graham Bulpitt: Background information

Graham was appointed Director of Library Services at Kingston University in south-west London in September 2003 where he is responsible for Learning Resource Centres on four campuses. Part of his brief is to work on the development of the learning infrastructure as part of a major University estates project.

He formerly worked at Sheffield Hallam University where he was responsible for establishing the Learning Centre. This department integrates library, computing and media production provision as well as the University's Learning and Teaching Institute. The city campus operation is housed in the Adsetts Centre, an ambitious new building which opened in 1996.

Graham carries out consultancy work, particularly on the development of academic support services, staffing matters and library buildings. He acts as assessor to a number of bodies, including universities and the European Commission. He is a member of the editorial boards of the *New review of libraries and lifelong learning* and the *New review of academic librarianship*.

He holds degrees from the Open University and the University of London; he is a chartered librarian and qualified teacher. His interests include work for TOFS: he is a director of this charity for children born unable to swallow.

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