

M25 Access and Borrowing Scheme: report on activity 2002/3

The 2002/3 academic year was the second complete year of operation for the M25 Access and Borrowing Scheme. During the year it was fully adopted by most libraries as the default scheme for access and borrowing for staff and research students. This embedding of the scheme is reflected in the statistics for 2002/3 and is discussed below.

In the course of the year a national access and borrowing scheme, SCONUL Research Extra (SRX) was developed. SRX has been modelled on the M25 scheme and operates in a similar way. SRX was launched in June 2003 and subsumed the M25 scheme from 31st July 2003.

Scope of the statistics

Prior to 2002/3 many libraries were using other access and borrowing schemes as their default, notably the University of London agreement. The overlapping of schemes lead to some under-reporting e.g. some members recorded activity under the University of London Scheme and so did not report it as M25 Access. The last report on the M25 scheme in October 2002 recommended that the statistics collection should aim to measure the total level of access and borrowing activity across the Consortium in order to present a more comprehensive overview.

In order to achieve this, M25 libraries were asked to return statistics for borrower enrolments and loans/renewals based on the 4 bands listed below.

- Band A: *Staff and researchers from other M25 institutions*
- Band B: *Non-research students from other M25 institutions*
- Band C: *Staff and researchers from HE institutions outside the M25 Consortium*
- Band D: *Non-research students from HE institutions outside the M25 Consortium.*

The 'M25 statistics tool' was developed to collate and summarise these figures. The tool consists of three inter-related Excel workbooks, the first deals with borrower enrolment statistics, the second with loans and renewals statistics and the third provides an overview of these two workbooks.

Collection of the statistics

The previous consultant carried out a significant amount of work to ensure that libraries would be able to report on activity in the 4 bands and each library was provided with data collection sheets based on the 4 bands. It seemed as if it would be feasible to gather data in this way, however when the statistics collection began it became apparent that in practice it was difficult and time consuming for libraries to generate these statistics. Therefore during the course of the collection it was decided to focus on Band A and in

particular, enrolments in this band. Libraries were encouraged to return this information even if they could not provide the other figures. It is hoped that this information, although less than originally envisaged, will provide an indication of the level of usage of libraries within the Consortium. For this reason this report does not deal with any of the other bands.

Results

34 libraries were asked to return statistics. The attached spreadsheet, *Access Activity: cumulative totals* summarises the figures which have been received.

Replies were received from 32 libraries. Of the 32, one, the Imperial War Museum, is reference only and therefore had no figures to submit. A second, SAS, could not provide exact figures in time for inclusion in this report but the Librarian did provide a comment on the level of usage of SAS libraries. This can be found at the bottom of *Access Activity: cumulative totals*.

The remaining 30 libraries all submitted figures relating to borrower enrolments for Band A and some were also able to provide statistics for other borrower enrolments and also for loans/renewals. Only one of the 30, the Open University reported that there had been no borrower enrolments and no loans/renewals. Of the 29 libraries which reported enrolments for Band A, 19 were also able to provide figures for loans/renewals to this category. The Open University and the Imperial War Museum are shaded on the spreadsheet. All other zeroes on the spreadsheet indicate that no figures were returned for the category.

Comparing the statistics for 2002/3 to those for 2001/2 is problematic. As has already been stated the overlapping of access schemes resulted in some under reporting in 2001/2. The introduction of the 4 bands for 2002/3 has encouraged libraries to include all borrower enrolments and loans/renewals regardless of the means by which the borrower joined the host library. This broadening of the categories accounts for much of the difference between the figures reported for 2001/2 and those returned for 2002/3.

Although the figures for the two years do not relate directly, those for 2001/2 are compared to those for Band A in 2002/3 as a matter of interest.

	2001/2	2002/3	% change
Enrolments	531	7558	1323%
Loans/renewals	3774	32560	763%

*Caroline Lloyd,
Birkbeck College
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