

Update on membership of the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries

1. Since the last report to Consortium Members in June 2003 there has been a lot of activity in relation to membership of the Consortium. This issue has been regularly discussed by the Steering Group and reported to Members by email. Members are now asked to approve and ratify the actions taken by the Steering Group to date, and which have already been approved by the membership in principle via email, in respect of membership applications received, or invitations issued to the following.
 - a. Full HEFCE funded membership:
 - **Anglia Polytechnic University**
 - **Open University in London** (had previously held Observer status)
 - **Royal College of Nursing Institute**
 - **University of Sussex**
 - b. Full non-HEFCE funded membership:
 - **Natural History Museum** – this being a research collection within a national museum.
 - **Royal Society of Chemistry** - the collections of the Royal Societies/Colleges had already been identified as being of potential interest to Members.
 - c. Observer status:
 - **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** – the library and archives being research collections within a national institution.
2. The Steering Group has agreed that a new document outlining rights and responsibilities of Members would be helpful. The Secretary will draft this for approval at the Members' meeting in June 2004.
3. The Steering Group has agreed that the Collaboration and Partnership Working Group will formally take over the task to identify other potential academic related partners for future membership. The Steering Group will retain its role of discussing and approving any suggestions prior to them being put to the Members for approval.
4. It should be noted that Membership requests from FE Colleges were rejected as tied up with problems in getting any progress on FE organisation in London.