

**M25 Consortium Annual General Meeting
6 June 2008**

Key Projects for 2007/08 : Progress Report

1. WAM25 project (Walk-in access to e-resources in the M25 Consortium)

In late 2006 the Steering Group identified the potential barriers to reciprocal access raised by the move to electronic-only resources and asked the Resource Discovery Working Group to develop a specification for a project to address this. At this point HEFCE put out a call for proposals for funding for shared services and a bid was put in on behalf of the M25 Consortium, based on the RDWG project specification. The bidding process was protracted but in December 2007 (as reported at the January 2008 Consortium meeting) funding of £37.5k was received for a feasibility study.

From a Consortium point of view, the stages of the project are envisaged as:

- A feasibility study (funding provided by HEFCE)
- A pilot project to implement walk-in access to e-resources at up to eight partner institutions (funding to be sought from HEFCE)
- Roll-out of the scheme across the whole M25 Consortium (external funding to be sought, from HEFCE or elsewhere)

Should the pilot project be successful, it is expected that participation in the scheme would become a standard feature of M25 membership (in the same way as physical access to libraries) and be added to the roles and responsibilities of members.

Partners in the WAM25 feasibility study are:

Greenwich University
The Institute of Education
London Metropolitan University
London School of Economics (Lead Site)
London South Bank University
The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,

A WAM25 Steering Group was established, consisting of representatives from the partner institutions and a representative from JISC, on behalf of HEFCE. John Gilby is the Project Manager, with Maureen Wade as Project Director. Consultants were appointed in January 2008 and work on the feasibility study began in February. The HEFCE process for feasibility studies on shared services involves the following stages:

- Initial feasibility /business case
- Break-point review (at which point HEFCE decides whether funding should continue for the next stage)
- Final outcome report, including a business plan.

The feasibility / business case for WAM25 was approved by HEFCE at the break-point review in April. The final outcome report is currently being completed and will be considered by the WAM25 Steering Group on 19 June.

On the basis of the final outcome report, it is intended to make a further bid to HEFCE for funding for a pilot project to implement walk-in access to e-resources in eight M25 partner institutions. The funding will be used to provide central support for institutions implementing walk-in access, including advice on technical and operational arrangements. The project officer will also work on resource discovery, access, marketing and dissemination.

All the partners taking part in the feasibility study will continue into the pilot project, apart from London Metropolitan University. The University College of the Creative Arts has agreed to participate in the pilot project and two further partners are being sought, on the recommendation of the consultants.

2. AIM25

The M25 Steering Group was approached in 2007 with a request for part-funding for extension of the AIM25 service, which provides information on archive collections in the London area. The Steering Group agreed to provide £10k to fund work on linking InforM25 "Search-catalogues" to the AIM25 service. The aim was to raise user awareness of archives of potential interest held in the M25 area. Funding for the rest of the project was received from the University of London Vice Chancellor's Fund.

The work on linking "Search catalogues" to the AIM25 service is being carried out jointly by the University of London Computer Centre (ULCC) and the M25 Systems Team. Progress so far includes:

- Substantial changes made by ULCC on the AIM25 Z39.50 server and web-based search mechanisms
- Thorough testing of the revised searches undertaken by the Systems Team
- Boolean searching and subject name searches enabled on AIM25 service (to 'match' these search possibilities already existing on Search-catalogues)
- Programming work on InforM25 started to incorporate AIM25 for subject and keyword searches

Work remaining is to complete programming and incorporate linking on the InforM25 test site and thence the live service. It is intended that once complete, the linking can be promoted and the achievement disseminated to the library and archive community.

Maureen Wade / John Gilby
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