USING COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS, AVAILABILITY AND SERVICES

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Cranfield University Library has a long history of being involved in LIS research and recent years have been no exception. A number of collaborative projects – with a diverse range of partners – have enabled the library to develop innovative new services and improve the availability of, and access to, information resources and collections.

Projects to be discussed in the presentation will include: EURILIA which examined the feasibility and technical infrastructure of a variety of document delivery systems between European partners; and AIM-UK which evaluated information flows throughout the UK aerospace sector and recommended more effective means of access, utilisation and delivery of information. Building on this research base, Cranfield presented a proposal to build and develop AERADE – a portal for high quality Internet resources in aerospace and defence. AERADE now forms part of EEVL (the Engineering, Mathematics and Computing portal) which in turn is an important hub of the (UK) National Resource Discover Network. In parallel, the thorny issue of access to, and availability of, grey literature is being tackled by a consortia led by Cranfield. MAGiC (Managing Access to the Grey Literature Collections) is funded by the British Library and the Research Support Libraries Group (RSLG) and is currently building a demonstrator National Reports Catalogue providing access to both bibliographic records and full text.