

North West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Empowering the Learning Community Demonstration Projects

Funding Application – May 2003

Please note this was the original project proposal and some detail may have changed in the implementation of the Demonstration Projects

1. Introduction

The INformation Sharing Partners In Resources for Education (INSPIRE) framework is an access and referral policy for public, higher education and national library services, designed to maximise access to information and resources for all members of the community in pursuit of lifelong learning.

The framework has been developed by the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL), the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) and the British Library (BL), and aims to underpin programmes of co-operation at local, regional and national levels to ensure access for learners to the wealth of material available through libraries of all types.

Many existing arrangements go some way towards achieving the principles of INSPIRE, and in the North West region, a number of sub-regional arrangements are already in practice. This existing co-operation provides a useful platform on which to build a region-wide framework for access and referral, along the lines of the INSPIRE model.

2. Project Description

The key objective of this project is to develop an appropriate regional framework which will support the full implementation of the INSPIRE initiative across England's Northwest, and hence deliver the Empowering the Learning Community agenda in the region.

The project will deliver this objective through three phases of activity between June 2003 and March 2004. These phases are summarised below –

Phase 1 : Mapping of current sub regional arrangements

This mapping exercise will establish how far the Northwest has progressed in relation to INSPIRE, where the main gaps are, and what the key barriers are to full implementation across the region.

Phase 2 : Feasibility Studies of Appropriate Frameworks

This part of the project will examine current INSPIRE arrangements within the Northwest and other regions, in order to identify the most appropriate framework(s) that could be used to plug the gaps and address the barriers to full implementation of the Empowering vision that were identified during phase 1.

An expert steering panel specially convened for this part of the project will oversee phase 2.

Phase 3 : Demonstration Projects Funding

This phase of the initiative will test the veracity of the framework(s) identified in phase 2 by supporting at least 2 demonstration projects that test whether the framework(s) are capable of –

- identifying what users/learners want and need from libraries in a particular area
- resolving problems and conflicts between partners and the prioritisation of activity
- delivering clear benefits for users/learners which can be sustained beyond the period of project funding

The evaluation of these projects will then provide the Northwest with a robust framework(s) with which to implement the INSPIRE project across the region.

3 Supporting the Empowering Criteria

By completing the above three phases this project will deliver the following aspects of the Empowering criteria –

- Build on existing models of INSPIRE and implement them within the Northwest for the benefit of new groups of learners
- Deliver positive outcomes for adult learners through the demonstration projects
- Examine the impact of the INSPIRE initiative on library staff through the mapping, feasibility and demonstration project stages
- Support, encourage and develop partnerships between libraries and museums, archives, LSC, OU Ufi and so on through the feasibility and demonstration project phases
- Ensure sustainability through funding agreements with project partners
- Support the evaluation work of external consultants through appropriate information collection

4 Project Partners

This project will be co-ordinated by NWMLAC in partnership with Libraries North West (LNW) and the North West Regional Archive Council (NWRAC). The three organisations have co-operated in the development of this bid, and both LNW and NWRAC will provide expert advice, help and support to the project co-ordinator throughout this initiative.

An expert panel that will include appropriately skilled and experienced individuals drawn from HE, FE and public libraries, LSC, Learning Partnerships and other appropriate stakeholders will oversee the feasibility stage of the project (Phase 2). The expert panel will ensure that a robust and realistic framework(s) for the implementation of INSPIRE is identified for the demonstration projects phase of this initiative.

5 Lead Contact Person for Project

Inquiries should be sent to Paul Parry, Head of Learning and Access (NWMLAC), tel 01254 670211, e-mail paul.parry@nwmlac.org.uk

6. Breakdown of Costs

Project Activity/Description	Cost (£)
Phase 1 – Mapping	
Consultancy Costs (research)	3,000
Phase 2 - Feasibility Studies	
Consultancy Costs (research and consultation)	5,000
Support costs for expert panel	1,000
Phase 3 – Demonstration Projects	
Funding support for development, implementation and evaluation Of 2/3 Demonstration projects	11,000
Total Costs	20,000

7. Timetable of Activity

Nature of Activity	Dates
<u>Phase 1</u>	
Appoint Consultants	June 2003
Commence research	June 2003
Completion of research/mapping	September 2003
<u>Phase 2</u>	
Appoint consultants	September 2003
Commence research	September 2003
Feasibility planning in response to research	October 2003
Identification of framework(s)	October 2003
<u>Phase 3</u>	
Invite bids for funding support	November 2003
Implementation of Demo. Projects	Nov 2003-Feb 2004
Evaluation of Demo Projects	March 2004

8. Monitoring of Progress

The Head of Learning and Access at NWMLAC will be responsible for the day to day management of this project and will ensure that it is delivered in accordance with the budget and timetable noted above.

Reports concerning the progress of the project will be submitted to the board of NWMLAC on a quarterly basis. The Head of Learning and Access will also ensure that any reporting requirements set out by Resource in its funding agreement are complied with.

9. Commitment to Collect Data

NWMLAC is committed to the collection of data specified by external consultants in support of this project.