

RESEARCH SCENARIO ONE

The Bidding Culture and Local Government: Effects on the Development of Public Libraries, Museums and Archives

<http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/sd/academic/ceis/re/isrc/themes/ibarea/bidcult/>

This research project investigated the significance of competitive bidding for local government archives, public libraries and registered museums. It determined the scale and extent of competitive bidding in these sectors; identified and evaluated approaches to bidding for and securing funds; and investigated the consequences of non-bidding and unsuccessful applications in addition to successful submissions. It was funded by Re:source, the National Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries from 2000 to 2001.

The methodology included:

- a postal questionnaire survey of all local authority archives, libraries and registered museums in England. This questionnaire comprised both closed questions to collect quantitative data, and open questions to obtain views and opinions.
- in-depth interviews with almost one hundred local government and other key personnel nationwide.

RESEARCH SCENARIO TWO

AC⁺erm – 'Accelerating Positive Change in Electronic Records Management'

<http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/acerm>

This research project aimed to investigate and critically explore issues and practical strategies to support accelerating the pace of positive change in managing electronic records. Its focus was on designing an organisation-centred architecture from three perspectives: (i) people, including vision, awareness, culture, drivers and barriers; (ii) working practices including processes, procedures, policies and standards; and (iii) technology in terms of the design principles for delivering effective recordkeeping. It was funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council from 2007 to 2010.

The methodology included:

- a systematic literature review on the topic of e-records management
- electronic Delphi studies (via email) looking in turn at the 3 facets of the study - people issues, understanding work processes, and systems and technologies. Each Delphi involved approximately 20 participants and comprised 4-5 rounds of questions: one round to refine and discuss the issues identified by a systematic literature review, a round where the issues were ranked in order of importance / urgency, at least one round to propose and discuss solutions to the issues, and finally a round to evaluate the solutions against criteria such as priority and feasibility