

QUILS

A National Test Resource



QUestions for Information and Library Science

FREE WORKSHOP – 27th/28th January 2003

At a time of increasing student numbers in H.E. many students are looking for ways to check their understanding and knowledge of basic topic facts.

Computerised formative testing can assist students to check what they have learned without having to seek help from staff. More importantly staff can direct students to computer-based learning resources that have infinite patience and can provide feedback to students to enable them to correct their mistakes.

Many disciplines have developed test banks which are used in formative mode, as well as summatively if the conditions are right. This has been achieved by academic departments working with their LTSN subject centres.

It is proposed that the Information and Library Science (ILS) departments in the UK work with the LTSN-ICS to create a national Test Bank (QUILS) for the discipline to assist both staff and students.

Developing a Question Bank for any discipline is, as you know, fraught with problems and ILS will no doubt pose its own unique ones to be overcome. We are holding a QUILS WORKSHOP and are hopeful of attracting every ILS department with possibly more than one representative from each. Information for the workshop has been sent to Heads of Departments or Divisional Heads and LTSN-ICS Departmental Contacts.

Accommodation and travel to the WORKSHOP will be paid for by the LTSN-ICS. Participants would retain the copyright to their own questions but also gain access to, hopefully, hundreds more over time.

Outcomes for the workshop will include actual questions, answers and feedback across a range of topics that will be used to populate QUILS in the first instance. Example topics might include for example: copyright, ethics, indexing, classification and cataloguing, information retrieval, bibliometrics and Boolean logic. The topics to be addressed would be the subject of agreement and discussion prior to the workshop. In addition agreements on operating our subject based test bank, mechanisms for adding and using questions; and long-term plans for future development would be discussed.

We will hold the workshop in a location away from the usual university site distractions and with sufficient time for results and progress to emerge naturally. Educators familiar with creating Test Banks will be available to assist and facilitate this process. Testing software and Optical Mark Reader systems will be described and demonstrated. Importantly assembling and developing appropriate questions for ILS will be the main focus of the workshop.

However your suggestions on how to ensure that occurs through facilitation by yourself and others would be most welcome. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to attend or ask for further information.

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