



Staff and student research from the Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield

Each year staff and postgraduate students from the Department of Information Studies at Sheffield University produce research reports, papers, dissertations and theses on a wide range of topics. Many of these are of interest and relevance to library staff in our area, either because they focus (entirely, or in part) on local practice or because they cover topics of national relevance. The material is widely used by academic and practitioner colleagues, but SINTO is keen to promote it to the widest possible audience, and we have provided details of how to find it below. Because of the Department's strong belief in the importance of transferring research to practice, all work is made externally available to download, free of charge (unless there are any copyright or organisational restrictions).

As well as being a source of information there is a further opportunity for library staff in the region to suggest possible topics for research to the Department, and to offer support to students who wish to carry out research in local libraries. Colleagues in the Department compile lists of suggested research topics each year, many of which are contributed by colleagues in the area, and they would welcome further suggestions. Topics should have a research focus and be of a scale that an individual student can reasonably produce a useful piece of work within the given period (usually 3 months, full-time, from June to August). There is no guarantee that a student will take up the idea, but in general students are keen to be involved in 'real life' research. As well as suggesting a topic libraries should also be able to offer support to students conducting the research.

Finding material online:

- The CPLIS (**Centre for the Public Library and Information in Society**) web page at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/is/research/centres/cplis> contains a wide range of information, resources, and links to staff and student research within the public sector.
- The Department of Information Studies' **publications database** is available at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/is/research/publications>. This database includes bibliographic details of publications produced by staff and students of the Department from 1963 onwards. It also includes bibliographic details of various in-house publication series published by the Department.
- The University of Sheffield Library **Star library catalogue** at <http://library.shef.ac.uk/> can also be used by selecting 'Theses catalogue' from the drop down menu and searching on keyword/author/title.

Briony Birdi at DIS (Director of CPLIS), maintains a mailing list which she contacts each year with details of new staff or student research in the public sector, and messages are also regularly sent to jiscmail lists e.g. lis-pub-lis. Contact Briony on b.birdi@sheffield.ac.uk if you would like further information, or if you would like to suggest a topic for future student research.