

UKAT:
Where we've come from,
where we're going

Peter Garrod
University of London Computer Centre
(p.garrod@ulcc.ac.uk)

Origins of UKAT

- UNESCO Thesaurus Users Group (later Working Party)
- Seminars in 1999 and 2000
- Bids to British Library Co-operation and Partnership Programme (2000, 2001)
- Bid to HLF (2002)

Why UKAT?

- Emergence of National Archives Network
- Importance of subject indexing
- Need for standardisation
- Problems with existing schemes
- Social inclusion

Emergence of the NAN

- *Archives On-Line* (1998)
- *Government Policy on Archives* (1999)
- By 2002: AIM25, A2A, Archives Hub, CASBAH, GASHE, Mundus ...
- Talk about a portal ... *Government Policy on Archives Action Plan*, NANURG, Linking Arms

Subject indexes and NAN

- An established form of finding aid
- Widely created by NAN projects
- HILT stakeholder survey (2001)
- Government Category List
- Evidence of use by archive users

Standardisation of terminology

- Essential for the NAN but ...
- Lack of established standards
- Drawbacks of existing schemes (UNESCO, LCSH)
- Local additions to UNESCO: 7% - 25% for projects, up to 1/3 for individual repositories

Social inclusion

- Setting the agenda: Government Policy on Archives (1999) and Action Plan (2002)
- Role of archival finding aids
- Experience of CASBAH

How it came together: UKAT's goals

Develop a thesaurus which...

- Meets national and international standards
- Uses the best elements of UNESCO
- Meets the needs of archives and their users
- Helps open up archives to a wider community

How can you help?

- Submit terms
- Tell us what you think
- Join our User Group / Advisory Panel