



Supporting Knowledge Discovery In A Research Organisation

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In dynamic research organisations, library and information management professionals should take an active role in supporting knowledge creation, discovery and sharing. The UK Ministry of Defence's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory created in 2000 has a pedigree of research success which includes radar, the jet engine, carbon fibre and flat screen television, to name but a few.

This paper describes the creation from scratch, and philosophy of, a Department whose structure and functions were all aimed at supporting knowledge creation by both individuals and project teams. Underlying these services was a deep understanding gathered over 30 years of how research scientists learn, and how we need to aid that learning process. This process is demonstrated graphically by a development of Max Boisot's "Social Learning Cycle".