



ARL and SCONUL Assessment Initiatives: Synergies and Opportunities

Stephen Town¹

¹ University of York (UK)

jst504@york.ac.uk

This paper describes and evaluates recent North American Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and UK and Ireland Society of College National and University Libraries (SCONUL) performance measurement and assessment initiatives, with particular attention to the use of ARL tools and techniques in the UK and Ireland. These include LibQUAL+ and the Effective and Sustainable Assessment program (ESP). The different contexts of quality and quality assurance on each side of the Atlantic are considered, and the issue of transferability is discussed in the context of the globalization of higher education. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are covered, including the SCONUL Value and Impact programme (VAMP) and the potential international convergence of academic library statistics collection. The paper considers potential synergies and opportunities for further international collaboration in this field.

Keywords: ARL, SCONUL, Effective, sustainable and Practical Assessment, Value and impact programme (VAMP), Qualitative and Quantitative Methods