

# Allan Foster: Curriculum Vitae (part 1)

**Address:** 91, St. Annes Road East, Lytham St. Annes,  
Lancashire FY8 3NF, UK. (Tel. 01253 721734)

**Personal details:** Born 28th October 1948; married, with three (non-dependent) children

**Current position:** Director of Information Services (& University Librarian),  
(until 31/10/2005) Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG, UK

Tel.: 01782 583231 Mobile: 07721 601681  
Fax: 01782 711553 e-mail: a.j.foster@keele.ac.uk

## **Main responsibilities:**

Leadership, strategic direction and management of computing, management information systems, telecommunications, library, & media services at Keele University. Managing the integration of these services into a coherent whole, and building on the synergies generated by this process. Pursuing continuous quality improvements in all services offered to internal and external users. Building and developing collections of learning, teaching and research information resources appropriate to a university of Keele's size and character, within the budget limitations faced by the University.

Ensuring that the University is able to take advantage of IT developments as these impact on learning, teaching and research, and participating in the process of change which these developments imply. Ensuring sound budget management throughout the service, including the development of further income opportunities. Building partnerships inside and outside the University, including (critically) with academic departments, other local, regional and national HE institutions, and corporations when and where appropriate. Contributing to the corporate management of the University.

## **Additional responsibilities at Keele:**

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| Member of VC's Committee (University Management Team)                                      | 1994-       |
| Member, Directors Group  | 1999-       |
| Member of University Senate (& in attendance at Council)                                   | 1994-       |
| Member (& ex-Joint Chair), University/AUT Joint Negotiating Committee                      | 1996-       |
| Chair, Keele Facilities Management Pay Negotiating Panels                                  | 1996-2002   |
| Chair, Keele MBA Review Groups   | 1996 & 2001 |
| Secretary, Appointment Committee and Search Committee for University Secretary & Registrar | 1997        |
| Alternate Director, Net North West Ltd.  | 1998-       |

**Previous Experience:**

|       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| (i)   | Deputy Librarian & Information Officer<br>British Institute of Management                                       | 1969-71 |
| (ii)  | Business Management Librarian (Lecturer II)<br>Sheffield City Polytechnic                                       | 1971-77 |
| (iii) | Research & Development Librarian (Senior Lecturer)<br>Sheffield City Polytechnic                                | 1977-80 |
| (iv)  | Deputy Polytechnic Librarian (Principal Lecturer)<br>Preston/Lancashire Polytechnic                             | 1980-85 |
| (v)   | Polytechnic Librarian (HODVI)<br>Lancashire Polytechnic   | 1985-88 |
| (vi)  | Librarian & Information Services Manager (ALC Grade 6)<br>Manchester Business School (University of Manchester) | 1988-94 |

**Education:**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Dr. Morgan's Grammar School (Bridgwater)  | 1959-65 |
| Bristol College of Commerce               | 1966-67 |
| Liverpool College of Commerce/Polytechnic | 1967-69 |
| Open University                           | 1973-76 |

**Qualifications:**

|  |           |
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| B.A. (Social Sciences)   | 1976      |
| Associate of Library Association   | 1970      |
| Member, Institute of Information Scientists  | 1982-1992 |
| Fellow, Institute of Information Scientists<br>(nominated for 'contribution to the fields of business<br>information and electronic information services') | 1993-2002 |
| Fellow, Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals   | 2002-     |

**Professional Activities:**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Member, JISC Committee for Content Services                   | 2002-     |
| Member & Chair, JISC Content Working Group                    | 1996-2002 |
| Member, JISC Committee for Electronic Information             | 2001-2002 |
| Member, JISC Scholarly Communications Group                   | 2001-     |
| Co-Chair, Publisher & Library/Learning Solutions Group (PALS) | 2001-     |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Chair, PALS Licensing Group  | 2003-     |
| External Reviewer of Library/Information Services:<br>University College Bangor<br>2003<br>Manchester Metropolitan University                                      | 1999      |
| Chair, IAC European Business Librarian of the Year Award Panel   | 1998-2002 |
| Chair, Knowledge Management '98 Conference, Learned Information, London April 1998   | 1997-8    |
| JISC representative on Biz/ed Board (a JISC Electronic Libraries Project)  | 1997-     |
| Member of Online'97 Conference & Exhibition Planning Committee   | 1997      |
| Member of the Editorial Advisory Board, <i>Library Manager</i>   | 1996      |
| Regular columnist, <i>Information World Review</i>   | 1996-2001 |
| Chair, SCONUL Advisory Committee on Information Systems & Services<br>1995-1999  |           |
| Member, BIDS Steering Executive  | 1995-2002 |
| Regular columnist, <i>Library Manager</i> (Learned Information)  | 1994-96   |
| Member of CHEST Policy Group   | 1994-1998 |
| Chair, Forum for Information Resources in Staffordshire (FIRST)  | 1994-98   |
| Chairman of European Advisory Boards on Business Information and Wide Area Networking, Information Access Company Inc<br>1993-96                                   |           |
| Independent expert, Monopolies & Mergers Commission<br>Investigation into UK textual database market   | 1993      |
| Judges Panel, Online Inc/Information Access Co. Annual Industry Award, USA, (First European nominated to this Panel)   | 1992      |
| Member of Editorial Board, <i>British Journal of Academic Librarianship</i> , <i>New Review of Academic Librarianship</i>  | 1986-     |
| ASLIB the Association for Information Management<br>- nationally elected Member of Council and member of Professional Development & Information Advisory Committee | 1984-90   |

### General professional recognition

Nominated by peers as 'One of the 10 leading librarians in Britain', Independent on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2002. See: [The Top Brass: Keepers of knowledge gain stamp of approval](#)

**External Examiners' Appointments:**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| MA Information & Library Management, University of Central England                                     | 2004-   |
| MA Information Studies, Loughborough University  | 2003-   |
| Post-graduate Diploma/ MA-MSc in Information & Library Studies, University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 1995-9  |
| B.A. (Hons.) Information & Library Studies, University of Brighton                                     | 1995-8  |
| MA/Post-graduate Diploma in Librarianship & Information Studies, University of Wales                   | 1992-5  |
| B.A.(Hons) Librarianship/Information Studies, Manchester Polytechnic                                   | 1989-92 |

**Consultancy, training & applied research:**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Advisor, Glaxo Welcome plc  | 1997    |
| Advisor, PERA   | 1997    |
| Consultant, Durham University Business School   | 1996    |
| Consultant, Copenhagen Business School  | 1995-98 |
| Advisor, Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education  | 1995    |
| Internal training assignments with Merck Sharp & Dohme, London Research Centre, National Library of Wales & ASLIB   | 1994    |
| Director of major Consultancy project for Leicestershire County Council to evaluate the effectiveness of the Information in Business fee-based business information service | 1993-4  |
| Consultant, Cyprus International Institute of Management  | 1993    |
| Consultant, Financial Times Business Information Ltd.   | 1992    |
| Consultant, Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business, University College Dublin  | 1991-92 |
| Member of Development Partners Board, Lotus Development Corporation   | 1992-4  |
| Member of Business Reference Products Advisory Board Dun & Bradstreet UK Ltd.   | 1992-4  |
| Course Director & presenter, British Council sponsored course on strategic planning for library & information services , Lima & Piura, Peru                                 | 1989    |

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|---|-----------|
| Editorial Consultant, Headland Business Information<br>(variously part of Reed Elsevier & CSA)  | 1984-1999 |
| Online training and consultancy for Unilever plc, Building<br>Design Partnership, Dobson Park Industries  | 1982-86   |
| A longitudinal study of the effects of user education programmes<br>on science students. (with J W James & D R Fulljames)<br>British Library funded project | 1979-80   |
| Development of a management information retrieval<br>language (with J F Blagden) OSTI financed  | 1969-70   |