'The effect of open access and downloads (hits) on citation impact: a bibliography of students' by Steve Hitchcock, which considers reference linking and citation analysis for Open Archives.
http://opcit.eprints.org/oacitation-biblio.html

Public Sector News

E-Government Progress

Jane Inman (janeinman@warwickshire.gov.uk)

In a press release issued on 23rd August 2005, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister says that on average local authorities were 77% e-enabled in March 2005 so are well on the way to being 100% by December. This is based on local authorities reporting on the Best Value Performance Indicator which covers electronic service delivery, BVPI 157.
http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_01755

As the year progresses and the e-government targets draw ever closer the minister for local government, Jim Fitzpatrick has announced £7.5m of funding for 2005/06 to develop *Government Connect*. *Government Connect* will provide better security for online transactions and a single sign in for users It should provide better facilities for sharing data between local and central government and be available to all local authorities by December 2007. http://www.govconnect.gov.uk/ccm/portal/

What else will you be able to do once local authorities have completed their e-government work? The list is a long one but highlights include online admissions for school places, web pages for and maintained by councillors, more online consultation, multi-media, map-based data for property related information, map-based information about roadworks, online submission of planning applications, online payments for services including council tax, purchase of registration certificates, skip licences and parking fees and online booking of sports facilities.

Is anyone using these online facilities? SOCITM (The Society of Information Technology Management) has produced a report on usage of local authority web sites. They report an estimated 11.4m visitors to local government websites in May 2005, equal to about 10% of the population and more than 20% of those who use the   Internet. Job vacancies were the most frequent reason for visiting council websites! To find out more about this survey go to http://www.socitm.gov.uk. As part of the Implementing e-Government work the Government will be running a campaign in Spring 2006 to encourage take up of the services available.

National address register

In May the Government announced its intention to draw together address information and create a single, comprehensive national address register to be known as the *National Spatial Address Infrastructure*. This would involve bringing together data from the Royal Mail who manage post codes, Ordnance Survey for mapping data, Land Registry for property title and the Improvement and Development Agency (IdeA) which manages land gazetteers. However in August the discussion between IDeA and Ordnance Survey stalled and the project was shelved. *(Financial Times* 25/08/2005)

Lists

After the launch of the Integrated Public Sector Vocabulary we now have a Local Government Classification Scheme. Its stated aim is to "Facilitate and enhance the capacity of the organisation to share information and knowledge". Developed by the Records Management Society of Great Britain-Local Government Group it recognises the need to ensure records in whatever format are stored consistently. Overall the intention with all the standard lists is to facilitate better sharing of information.

Meanwhile all local authorities are required to use the Integrated Public Sector Vocabulary to index their web sites by December 2006.

To understand the lists now issued as part of the Government's interoperability framework visit http://www.esd.org.uk/standards.

UK Online Centres

UK online centres are offering a £750,000 Challenge Fund for 'ICT innovation in English public libraries.' They are looking for projects which use IT in new ways to engage users, lead into learning and encourage take up of e-government services. For more information go to http://www.mla.gov.uk

Modernising public services

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) has just completed a project to look at modernising public services through the use of technology and published a report called *Modernising with Purpose: a manifesto for a Digital Britain* (Davies, William IPPR 2005). It aims to broaden the debate on digital choices and encourage informed discussion of the opportunities on offer, whilst detailing a policy agenda for the use of the technology. You can view this report at http://www.ippr.org.uk/ecomm/files/modernising_with_purpose.pdf.

Library and Information Update (September 2005 Volume 4(9)) takes issue with the report as it fails to mention the support offered by librarians or to refer to the People's Network. William Davies is quoted as saying the most beneficial use of ICT is in the home although he recognises the huge contribution made to closing the digital divide by the People's Network.

Public Sector Information

In the last Public Sector column the big news was the launch of the Office of Public Sector Information.(http://www.opsi.gov.uk) In August the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information (APPSI) published its annual report for 2004/05, its second since its formation in 2003. The report says that further promotional work is needed to make sure public sector staff are aware of the potential value of the information they hold and of their responsibilities under the new legislation. *(Statutory Instrument SI 2005 no.1515 The Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.)* To view the report go to http://www.appsi.gov.uk

Jane Inman. Technical Librarian, Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy, Warwickshire County Council

Public Sector News is supplied by ALGIS (The Affiliation of Local Government Information Specialists) which represents information professionals providing information services to local authority staff and elected members. Jane Inman is currently Chair of ALGIS. For more information go to http://www.algis.org.uk.