

Focus group tools/methods: **continued**

2B Structured group output

Target group:	University library staff
Method:	Focusing on major areas of library service change (in this case discovery of e-resources) and on current service adaptability to such change

Part 1: Ask participants to work in trios. Ask them to create a scenario to describe how the resource discovery scene is likely to change over the next three to four years. Invite them to use the following headings when thinking about changes (flipchart these) but suggest that they use these as a guide not as a constraint:

Changes amongst electronic providers
Changes in learning support for students
Implications for academic staff and researchers
Changes in the roles of librarians
Changes in how the library provides its services
Changes in institutional infrastructures.

Ask them to flipchart the results.
Suggest thirty minutes for the activity, but observe groups to see when they finish.

Part 3: Display the results on the walls. Ask all participants to look at other people's output and see if they have any questions or comments on the other outputs. Look at the output and see whether you understand it all. Do any questions arise? Then ask for any questions or comments. Record the discussion. Ask any further questions that you have left. Record the replies.

Part 2: Now ask participants to return to their groups and decide:

- Q1 How well is your own library service dealing with these changes?**
- Q2 How widely is the library role in these areas recognised within the university?**
- Q3 How do you know this?**

After approximately 20 minutes (depending on group progress) de-brief by asking a group in for their views on Q1, and ask other groups whether they agree or have different ideas, then repeat for Q2 (starting with a different group), then for Q3. Flipchart the main points and record the discussion.