# QUALITY SYSTEMS IN LIS - THE REAL KEY TO QUALITY A PERSONAL AND PRAGMATIC VIEW\*

Andy Dawson School of Library, Archive & Information Studies UCL

# CONTENTS OF THIS PRESENTATION

- Some general thoughts on the success and failure of quality systems in LIS
- What are the factors in achieving a successful system?
- Some personal thoughts
- The real key to quality
- Please feel free to interrupt & discuss throughout!

## **QUALITY IN LIS**

- Background of LIS Quality implementation in the UK
- Approaches to quality
  - Quality Circles
  - Customer Care
  - Quality Assurance
  - Total Quality Management
  - Investors In People
  - Chartermarks, Service Level Agreements
  - Performance Indicators, Benchmarking
  - Best Value

# SUMMARISE APPROACHES TO QUALITY AS

- Quality philosophies
- Quality systems
- Quality mechanisms
- · Quality mentality

# WHAT HAS WORKED?

- All of the above!
- WHEN:
  - Commitment to a quality ideal
  - Practical, measure able, appropriate systems
  - Involvement

## WHAT HASN'T WORKED?

- All of the above!
- WHEN
  - Quality is not truly recognized or properly defined
    - Quality is subjective
    - Quality and fitness for purpose
    - Quality vs value
  - Operational needs are overridden
    - The quest for an external standard
    - Bureaucracy
  - The system is subverted

<sup>\*</sup> Η εργασία αυτή συμπεριλήφθηκε στα πρακτικά με τη μορφή της παρουσίασης (PowerPoint), λόγω μη αποστολής κειμένου από τον ομιλητή.

- People don't care
- The means become the ends

#### WHY?

- What should we be looking for?
- The importance of a quality mentality
- The importance of a mechanism to implement it
- The importance of an operational heeds basis
- The importance of PEOPLE

## WHEN SHOULD WE ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

- All the time!
  - Planning
    - Development
    - Implementation
    - Operation
    - Maintenance

# **HOW DO WE MAKE IT WORK?**

- Vision
- Leadership by example
- Transparency and honesty
- Teamwork and involvement
- Proof by execution
- "Keep your eyes on the prize"
- Doug Phrang's point of view

# SOME PERSONAL THOUGHTS

- On the UK experience
- Pervasiveness of true quality management
- Importance of commitment
- Internal and external use of quality systems
- Dangers of subversion
- Need to define your own system
- Importance of including formal, verifiable mechanisms
- Real benefits of a quality system
- Being serious "The house that Jack built"

# THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT MODEL

# THE REAL KEY TO QUALITY

- People
  - Our systems are FOR people
  - They are created BY people
  - They are delivered THROUGH people
- Quality comes by understanding and generating the INVOLVEMENT of people
- The PEOPLE are more important than the SYSTEM
- People drive the system NOT the other way round!