

## LIBRARY ACCESS AND SIXTH FORM STUDIES

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In collaboration with the Centre for Research In (Library) User Studies (CRUS) of the University of Sheffield and Keswick Hall College of Education, the Centre for Applied Research In Education (CARE) is now starting a new research project, funded by the British Library Research and Development Department. Its title is :  
Library Access, Library Use and User Education In Academic Sixth Forms :  
It will be directed by Lawrence Stenhouse in association with Beverley Labbett (Co-ordinator), the CRUS team being led by Colin Harris. The Project will end in June 1982.

The aims of the project are :

- 1) To reconceptualise academic sixth-form education in respect to its relation to library access ;
- 2) To draw implications for teaching in the presence of libraries and for user education, (i.e. the education and training offered to people who use libraries to help them to do so more effectively) ;
- 3) To consider the significance of library access for educational opportunity at sixth-form level and draw conclusions for the organization of education and library provision at age 16-19 ;
- 4) To consider the concept and possible form of compensatory user education;
- 5) To document the styles of librarians and teachers as managers of knowledge ;
- 6) To make recommendations for curriculum development in user education at sixth form level.

The research will be based on case studies of sixth-forms in twenty-one schools or colleges and it must include school which are fortunate and schools which are unfortunate in their library provision. The case-study procedure will involve observation in libraries and interviews with Heads, teaching staff, librarians and sixth-form pupils. Questions will not be asked of sixth-form pupils which encourage the expression of evaluative judgements of staff or school.

The study will be concerned with access to libraries other than the school library as well as with the school library.

In reporting the research schools will normally be anonymized. Where such anonymization appears to be difficult, the attention of the school will be drawn to the problem and it will be discussed before agreement to undertake the study is reached.

The study will, it is hoped, be influential in the development of library work at sixth-form level, but the researchers recognise that individual schools taking part might reasonably expect to gain particular benefit from the study. Accordingly case studies or consultant reports will be offered on the basis of negotiation between each case-study worker and each school taking part in the project with the intention of allowing the school to use this report as best serves its own needs, e.g. to report on its library situation and plan future development of a sixth-form library work.

Lawrence Stenhouse  
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CARE  
University of East Anglia  
University Village  
Norwich  
NR4 7TJ

CRUS  
University of Sheffield  
Western Bank  
Sheffield  
S10 2TN

Keswick Hall College of Education  
Keswick  
Norwich  
NR4 6TL