

Extending Quality Life

The EPSRC EQUAL Research Network

Annual Report

October 2003 - September 2004

www.equal.ac.uk

extending quality life
equal

The EQUAL Research Network : The Background

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the EQUAL Research Network is to improve the living environments and hence the quality of life of older people and disabled people by promoting interdisciplinary engineering based research and its application. Within this it seeks:

- to build on the research community which has evolved as a result of the EPSRC EQUAL initiative by focussing on the themes of the Built Environment, Product Design, Design for All and Rehabilitation, Independence and Quality of Life
- to appeal to and engage a wide ranging community of interest thus establishing an interdisciplinary and multi-professional network of researchers, policy makers, service providers, users and user representatives, intermediaries, government, industrial and commercial organisations.

Its focus is:

- to develop greater awareness of how the needs of older people and disabled people can be met through better research and informed education programmes
- to achieve direct interaction between those who influence and make policies which affect the quality of the environment of living and those who undertake and support research
- to create a better platform for the dissemination and application of current research
- to encourage high quality research through the better sharing of expertise.

Resources and Organisation

The Director of the EQUAL Research Network is Professor Peter Lansley and the Co-ordinator is Verity Smith. They are based at the University of Reading. Verity works for two days a week on the Network, for which EPSRC funding has been made available from October 2001 until September 2004.

The secretariat is advised by a Steering Committee. The Committee Members, all of whom act in a personal capacity, are:

Professor Kevin Morgan, (L'boro U.) *Chair*
Dr Diane Gyi (L'boro U.)
Dr Susan Lonsdale (DoH)
Professor Anthea Tinker (KCL)
Dr Andy Atkinson (South Bank U.)
Dr Bernie Conway (Strathclyde U.)
Marcus Ormerod (Salford U.)
Dr Chris Tweed (Ulster U.)

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General Feedback from Workshops: *"Have found this workshop very useful, very impressed with smoothness of organisation and the friendly / co-operative environment", "More of them!", "Good, nationally known leaders and presenters", "Wonderful experience", "Workshop groups were useful to bash out some ideas", "You seem to have a good formula", "Just more of the same.", "I really hope the talks at EPSRC go well as EQUAL has been brilliant both personally and professionally", "Keep running great Workshops", "More demonstrations of interesting equipment", "Maybe more time for discussion, but all in all, an excellent workshop", "Keep it up!"*

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This is the third annual report of the EQUAL Research Network, and the last report to be issued during the current period of funding by EPSRC which commenced in October 2001. The Network was launched in November 2001 with the aim to *improve the living environments and the quality of life of older people and disabled people by promoting interdisciplinary engineering and design based research and its application.*

It is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional network with a strong focus on the end-users of research. It links researchers in universities with organisations concerned with older people and disabled people, such as charities, voluntary organisations, representative and advisory bodies, housing providers, central and local government, health and social services organisations, and industry, and it directly involves older people and disabled people.

EPSRC funding has supported a Network Co-ordinator for two days a week and some incidental expenses. The Secretariat consists of the Co-ordinator and the Director who are advised by a Steering Committee.

The First Year

Following the launch of the Network on 13th November 2001 four workshops were held in different parts of the UK. These showcased the projects supported by the EPSRC EQUAL Research Initiative and similar projects supported by other organisations and provided a platform for the experiences and views of practitioners who work with older and disabled people and for those of older and disabled people themselves. The workshops:

- o *Vision and Deafness in the Built Environment* at Reading University
- o *Bio-engineering and Mobility* at Strathclyde University
- o *Navigation: Finding the Way* at Newcastle University
- o *Designing for Safety and Competence* at Loughborough University

During the first year other major tasks for the secretariat were:

- o Compiling lists of those with an interest in the quality of life of older people and disabled people in, for example, universities and other research organisations, industrial and professional organisations, central and local government, health care organisations, charities and voluntary bodies.
- o Developing a web site for information about the EQUAL Initiative, the EQUAL Network and, especially, as a repository of information arising from the workshops, not least the presentations.
- o Publicising the Network and its activities.

The Second Year

The foundation laid in the first year enabled the further development of the Network's activities especially greater interaction with those who influence and make science policy. Extensive contact developed with all of the relevant Research Councils and with some charities involved with ageing research as well as government departments such as OST, DTI, and DoH. This stimulated an interest in the achievements of EQUAL and its contribution to improving quality of life. In turn this led to discussions about the future of ageing-related research.

The workshops held in the second year were:

- o *Building to Enhance the Quality of Life of All People* at the Chartered Institute of Building, Ascot, sponsored by the CIOB
- o *Design of Accessible Interfaces* at Reading University
- o *Integrated Approaches to the Development, Selection and Supply of Assistive Technologies for Older and Disabled People* at the Lancashire Postgraduate School of Medicine and Health, cosponsored by the Health Foundation
- o *Meeting the challenges of vision impairment: improving the quality of life of older people in their own homes* at Reading University, sponsored by the Thomas Pocklington Trust.

The Third Year

Activities in the third year have built solidly on these achievements leading to close collaboration with key bodies which develop, influence and implement policy in relation to the environments in which older people and disabled people live and work.

The Workshops

- o *Inclusive Transport: today, tomorrow and the future: research challenges*, hosted by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), sponsored by the Department for Transport, 20th November 2003, Co-organisers, Sandra Duncan and Harriett Samuels (DPTAC), 73 participants
- o *Quality Research with Older and Disabled People: Theoretical, Practical and Ethical Issues*, hosted and sponsored by Middlesex University, 21st January 2004. Co-organisers Dr Gill Whitney and colleagues (Middlesex U.), 75 participants
- o *Keeping the Older Worker Healthy and Safe*, hosted and sponsored by the Health and Safety Laboratory, Sheffield, 17th March 2004, Co-organiser Dr Sally Wilson (HSL), 81 participants
- o *Independence and Quality of Life for Older and Disabled People: The Welsh Dimension*, hosted and sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government and supported by Cardiff University and JMU Access Partnership, 5th July 2004, Co-organisers: Sarah Lowe, Camilla Davies and Barbara Atton (REACT, Welsh Assembly Government), and Carol Thomas (JMU Access Partnership, Cardiff), 102 participants

Each workshop has been a full day event, with presentations by:

- researchers about current and recently completed projects (not exclusively projects funded by EPSRC)
- health, social services, design and other practitioners about particular

projects or developments, their experiences and priorities for the future

- older people and disabled people about the issues and challenges which they face, how they have overcome them and priorities for research.



Clare Evans, MBE (Leonard Cheshire Disabled People's Forum) and Professor Alan Newell, MBE Presenters at the Methodology Workshop

Presentations have been complemented by discussion and feedback sessions, demonstrations, exhibitions and time for networking.

Of the 32 presentations during the year fourteen covered the outcomes of major research programmes funded by EPSRC and other research councils, three considered research projects undertaken by government departments, and three outlined research undertaken by charities concerned with older and disabled people. Five presentations concerned government policy issues, and a further five were about developments in industry, whilst another two were given by individuals and voluntary workers.

As well as reviewing the initial findings most of the presentations of the EQUAL projects showed how their findings are being used as a platform for further developments in research, policy and practice. Indeed, during the workshops many examples of the contribution of EQUAL projects have come to light, some of which were reported in the previous annual report. Some projects have been extended through applied research assignments enabling the application of findings to practice; researchers have received frequent invitations to provide advice to organisations, ranging across local voluntary action groups representing older and disabled people, service providers, product designers, professional

bodies and local government – health, social services and housing; some researchers now occupy important positions on government and similar policy committees, and with international organisations. Other examples include:

- o prototype products and systems, subsequently developed for more widespread application or for further development by industry and health care providers, for example in smart home and telecare research.
- o design and good practice guides which are used by practitioners, for example, by architects, other design, accessibility and health care specialists.
- o data and exemplars which are contributing to the revision of standards and regulations, in the UK, Europe and further afield; for example in the development of a new British Standard for the management of Inclusive Design.
- o policy information for government in relation to long term care, housing and the design of inclusive environments.



Lunchtime Networking at the Older Worker Workshop

Sponsorship

In last year's report we reported that even though significant organisational costs are borne by the EQUAL secretariat and presenters meet their own costs, many enthusiastic university groups cannot afford to host workshops because of the cost of room hire and refreshments. This year we have been fortunate to enjoy the generous support of several organisations, including one university,

and thus we have been able to continue to provide the workshops free of charge, an important feature of the Network's activities discussed in last year's report.

Sponsorship can provide a special opportunity to engage particular groups through focusing on the interests of the sponsors. For example:

- o the workshop on **transport** enabled fruitful interaction between transport specialists in government and a broad range of university based researchers and representatives of charities.
- o the workshop on **the older worker** brought together a unique range of specialists, who together contributed to developing research priorities in the areas of work and workplace design, issues which although important have been neglected in the debate about facilitating a longer working life.
- o the workshop hosted by the **Welsh Assembly Government** reinforced its Older People's Strategy by creating a focus on the contribution to be made by ageing-related research and developments in practice and the opportunity for developing special initiatives in Wales to meet the objectives of the Strategy. In particular this workshop achieved a high level of participation from older and disabled people. Hopefully the event will have stimulated the development of an ageing research network specifically for Wales
- o Although, given its focus, the **methodology** workshop was expected to attract a rather different spectrum of participants than other workshops this was not the case. The practice of research is far from the preserve of those in universities or specialist research units. Professionals in local and central government, charities and industry are increasingly involved with research. Often, to secure resources, they have to present cases based on research evidence. So despite the different contexts in which they operate here too was an unusual opportunity for researchers and practitioners to discover common interests.

Participants

Participants have come from a broad range of disciplinary and professional backgrounds with a balance between researchers, practitioners and end users being achieved at all events, often with researchers being in a slight minority. There has been the invaluable involvement of older people and disabled people who usually attend as representatives of national or local charities or voluntary organisations. Figure 1 shows the distribution of participants across six categories for each of this year's workshops.

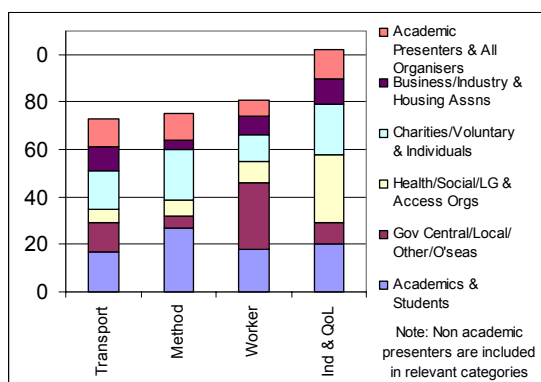


Fig. 1. Number of participants at the Workshops

Whilst some participants form part of a national audience, and others travel very large distances to attend specific workshops, each event has also attracted local and regional participants, especially older people and disabled people. Usually the number of those who operate at a national and policy level have been matched by those who are involved with local and regional issues. This balance is important. Just as the Network wishes to avoid being seen as an academic talking-shop so it needs to be viewed as being concerned with issues at the sharp end of practice. A good test of whether it is achieving this is through involving local people and encouraging their views, perspectives and feedback.

Despite this across-the-board involvement with the Network there remains a concern about the lack of interest from most central government organisations (except for the workshop on the older worker) despite the quality of life of older people being central to government policy. From time to time

there has been a similar concern about industry especially the limited interest in the workshop on the older worker.

During the year demand for places at workshops has risen considerably, and is twice as high as was expected and planned for at the beginning of the Network. On occasions over 150 people have expressed interest. Much of this growth is due to participants in previous workshops passing information to their contacts. As a result it has been necessary to create waiting lists for events although usually we have been able to accommodate all of those who have been keenly interested and to diplomatically handle those for whom this has not been possible. The popularity of the workshops, however, creates some concerns about maintaining an informal workshop atmosphere with large numbers.

Feedback

Participants have provided extremely positive feedback about the programmes for each workshop and the quality and content of the presentations (see Figure 2 for average satisfaction scores for each workshop). The workshops have been viewed as providing an important source of up-to-date and leading-edge information, informed debate and valuable contacts. The feedback has endorsed the claim made in previous years that the workshops are a powerful vehicle for the communication of science to a professional and well-informed public audience, a community which can readily evaluate and comment on both the content and potential of research.

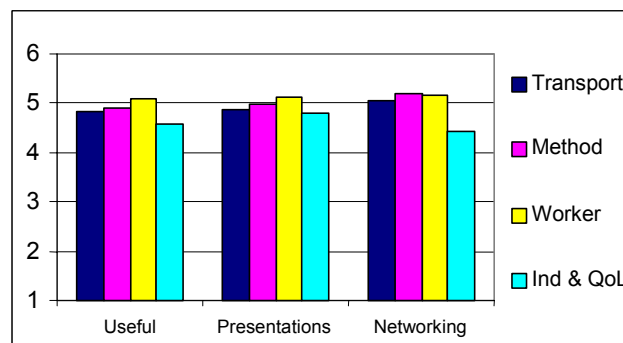


Fig. 2. Participants' Evaluation of Workshops (average scores) (Scores: 1 – very poor, 2 – poor, 3 – unsure, 4 – good, 5 – very good, 6 – excellent)

The strong national following enjoyed by the Network has been reinforced by the support of local and regional participants, especially from health and social services organisations, who in most cases would not be able to attend events in distant locations and are frequently denied opportunities for keeping up to date. They too have been strongly positive and appreciative of the opportunity to learn about recent developments and to discover a small but important research community which shares their interests.

Typically over 95% of the participants rate any aspect of a workshop as at least good, and over 70% rate them as very good or excellent. Indeed there have been few criticisms of the workshop content or format. Sometimes relief has been expressed at the absence of break-out sessions. This is because of disappointing experience with such sessions in ageing research workshops organised by others (nevertheless we did have break-out sessions at the Methodology workshop). Sometimes there has been a desire for more networking especially at the larger events, where networking is more difficult. Some participants, especially those who are unaccustomed to full day workshops, have found the workshops rather lengthy. On the other hand those who have travelled long distances to the events have expected a full programme.

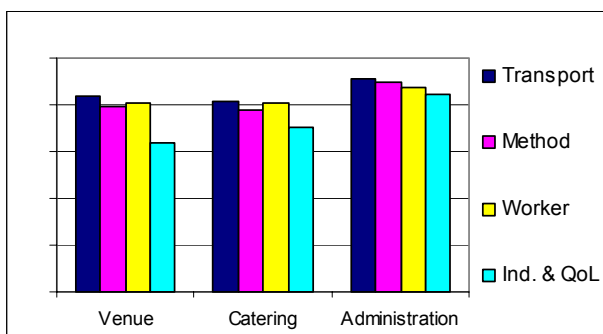


Fig. 3. Participants' Evaluation of Administrative Aspects (average scores)

Last year it was noted that the expectations of the public of events concerned with older people and disabled people are high and that there had been some criticisms of the venues which had been used and of the catering. Despite strenuous efforts by the hosts to use the

most accessible facilities available these criticisms continue. The reality is that even those hotels which have been designed to meet more than basic accessibility requirements often have annoying shortcomings, and even the best university buildings present some difficulties.



Publicising EQUAL

Contacts and Membership

During the year the Network's IT systems have been streamlined, a comprehensive mail-list and membership management system has been instituted. This has enabled the better maintenance of membership lists and of contacts with an interest in the Network and the handling of special requests for assistance in publicising third-party events. The improved system has enabled the rationalisation of the membership list and that of "other contacts" into those who are genuinely interested and supportive of the work of the Network (regular contacts) and those with a passing interest.

Date	Members	Other Contacts	
October 2002	188	418	
October 2003	318	525	
		Regular	Occasional
August 2004	404	487	Approx 200

Table 1: Membership and Contacts

New contacts have been added as the result of referral from existing members and as a consequence of each new workshop accessing new communities of interest so that over the year the membership of the Network has continued to grow. As a result for any prospective event or other activity approaching 1000 and other contacts receive information

directly, and a very large number receive information through indirect channels depending on the topic.

Publicity

The secretariat relies almost exclusively on email for communication with its members, other individuals and organisations and on its Website for publicising its activities. For events planned well in advance it has been possible to gain some publicity in professional journals and the national press. In some cases local radio has taken a special interest. However, in the main publicity for the Network has been following events - as reports, see www.equal.ac.uk. For occasions where it is possible to promote the Network, a range of posters are used. These are occasionally loaned to other organisations interested in ageing research.

In addition to presentations about EQUAL at national and international conferences and symposia there has been: attendance at other conferences, seminars and exhibitions on ageing and disability, often with the posters and other materials publicising EQUAL and the Network; participation in workshops on ageing and disability-related issues and on research policy and priorities for the future; and involvement with briefings and networking events concerned with research funding opportunities. Also, this year there have been a number of invitations to make special presentations. Public and invited lectures have included, the inaugural *David Wiffen Memorial Lecture* at the University of Newcastle, lectures in Prague and Bruno at the invitation of the British Embassy each of which was followed by a *Café Scientifique*, the opening presentation at *Technology for Independent Living*, a conference organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering, a presentation on the lessons from EQUAL at an NCAR workshop, and workshops at the University of Sheffield and the University of the West Indies. Each of the presentations has provided an opportunity to showcase a range of outcomes from the EQUAL research projects and to

promote the benefits to be gained from interdisciplinary design and engineering-orientated ageing and disability-related research.

Care is taken to promote EQUAL projects and similar work supported by other schemes which link to the mission of the Network rather than to discuss ageing and disability-related research in general. Otherwise there would be a danger of creating confusion about the role of the Network and compromising its credibility. Nevertheless there are frequent requests for the Network to become involved with issues which have such a strong social-science, medical and health rather than design and engineering base that they would be more appropriately handled by parallel networks supported by ESRC and MRC.



Discussing Dementia in the Czech Republic

Sometimes support for EQUAL and the Network arises in unexpected ways. For example, this year the annual report of FAST (The Foundation for Assistive Technology) to the Department of Health focused on research and development in Assistive Technology. This gave extensive coverage to some EQUAL projects and showed the importance of these, and of the EQUAL Initiative as a whole, to the national research effort.

Lobbying

Last year we reported valuable developments in the positioning of the Network. Meetings were held with Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation and senior staff of the DTI, and presentations were made to the Cross-Council Committee on Ageing Research and the Funders Forum on Ageing and Older People. The result of these

activities was an invitation to put forward proposals for the further development of the EQUAL Network to embrace work supported by the other Research Councils.

At that time it was recognised that there had been no significant stimulus to ageing research from a research council since the fourth round of the EQUAL initiative in 2001 especially as the cross-council programme, New Dynamics of Ageing Programme, was seriously delayed. So, the proposal, to develop a family of EQUAL Networks to serve the diverse communities served by the individual Research Councils, and a pump-priming scheme to encourage newcomers, could be expected to quickly retrieve the enthusiasm, interest and optimism in ageing research which had been dissipated since 2001.

Despite consulting widely amongst a range of research communities and stakeholders and taking advice and guidance from the Research Councils which had made the invitation, the proposal was not supported.

However, EPSRC and BBSRC remained very supportive and subsequently invited a proposal which is now under active consideration. This is described later.

Lobbying usually takes place whenever there is an opportunity to present the contribution of design and engineering research to enhancing the quality of life to those who make or influence policy. Often there is a need for much preparatory work to stimulate interest in needs or possibilities which are not widely recognised. For example the Network has been active in bringing to the attention of a range of agencies the need for greater emphasis on the older worker. With the prospect of many people retiring later than in recent years there is an important and urgent requirement to consider the design of work and of the workplace, as well as issues relating to travel to work.

One result of discovering a mutual concern for the older worker was the workshop *Keeping the Older Worker Healthy and Safe* co-organised with the Health and Safety Laboratory. Not only was this timely but it also revealed a large

number of other organisations with a concern for the older worker. Whilst these felt that social dimensions were being attended to in the current debate on the older worker those relating to occupational health were not. In the run-up to the workshop and subsequently there were several meetings with DWP and discussion and correspondence with the Mr Malcolm Wicks, Minister for Pensions.

Other opportunities to put forward the interest of members of the Network are being sought through other political channels, for example through involvement with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ageing and Older People. Also in September the Director of the Network made a presentation *Better Environments for Healthy Ageing* to a seminar for the House of Lords Select Committee Inquiry into Scientific Aspects of Ageing. This outlined the contribution of EQUAL to improving independence and quality of life of older and disabled people. There was great interest in the speed with which research findings have found their way into both policy and practice. Subsequently, formal written evidence about the EQUAL Initiative and the EQUAL Network was submitted to the Inquiry.



Making new contacts at the Older Worker Workshop

As a Network devoted to exploiting the value of research, continual attention is paid to ensuring that the Network is considered a useful and regular player amongst those organisations with an interest in ageing and disability-related research. The “bottom-up” approach to influencing policy, drawing on the

enthusiasm and commitment of a grass roots network of researchers, practitioners and older and disabled people is appreciated by many of those who make policy, although some government departments have been surprisingly off-hand towards the Network and its achievements. Nevertheless the Network enjoys good support from other government departments, EPSRC, other research councils, and charities, with which there is a fairly regular interchange. The straightforward and enthusiastic approach of the EQUAL Initiative and of the Network offers encouragement and confidence for strengthening research investment in the future.

Other Activities

As outlined in the previous Annual Report the activities of the secretariat extend beyond organising workshops and lobbying policy makers. In particular opportunities are continually sought to raise the profile of the work of the members of the Network, especially findings from their research. As the success of the Network has become better known so there have been more requests to advise others who are setting up networks especially in ageing, disability and health-related areas but also in areas of science and social science which are quite different. But in particular the Network frequently acts in a signposting role, directing those who are in search of experts in the field of design and engineering for older and disabled people towards the most appropriate contacts.

The Website www.equal.ac.uk

The website continues in the format established in 2001. It carries information about the EPSRC EQUAL Initiative, the EQUAL projects, and links to other organisations as well as details about the EQUAL Network. It also contains the presentations made at the workshops. The Website is well used and is regarded as a rich and valuable source of information for other researchers, users of research, students, health and social services sectors, charities and voluntary bodies and policy makers. Regrettably

there have been no resources to make the website fully accessible but if there is any further funding then this will be a priority. Despite its limitations in the recent report by FAST *RAPID – research and development in assistive technology 2003-2004* the website achieved ratings at least as high as those of professionally developed sites.

The Future

At the time of producing this Annual Report, September 2004, final negotiations were taking place over a proposal to build on the EQUAL Network to form a new and enhanced approach to encouraging the development of ageing research – called SPARC (Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity). The proposal, which if successful will be supported by EPSRC and BBSRC, will focus on two activities:

- o The development of a series of small awards to pump-prime new comers to ageing research, particularly young researchers.
- o Networking activities which build on the experience gained developing the EQUAL Network, comprising regular workshops, web-based activities, advocacy to policy makers.

Not only will SPARC enable young researchers from both the engineering and biological sciences to build their careers and benefit from the very successful EPSRC EQUAL and BBSRC ERA programmes, but it will provide an exciting opportunity to exploit issues which are at the interface of the missions of the two research councils. It will provide a unique opportunity for bridging the sciences. The hope is that SPARC will commence by January 2005 and will distribute its pump-priming awards in mid-2005 and early 2006. After some initial workshops to launch the awards scheme there will be a three streams of workshops. These will cover design and engineering related research, in the tradition of EQUAL Network workshops, and biology and biotechnology related research, but special attention will be given to research at the interface between engineering and biology. More details

about SPARC will be published on the EQUAL website as soon as negotiations have been completed.

Another activity, which is almost complete, is a survey of the views of Principal Investigators about the EQUAL Initiative and the EQUAL Network. Initial analysis has provided valuable insights into those features of the Initiative and the Network which have been supportive of the research community and has gathered some important suggestions about the future development of ageing and disability-related research. Whilst the majority of respondents have been very complementary towards the EQUAL Initiative and many have considered the Network to be a model of good practice, there is a strong feeling that ageing and disability research in the UK must move on. Design and engineering orientated ageing and disability research has matured over the last six years and the environment of research has changed. There is now a greater urgency to tackle basic issues relating to the lives of older and disabled people but at the same time the national research agenda for research in these areas lacks conviction and energy. The findings from the survey will be published on the EQUAL website before the end of 2004.

Finally, in this review of activities at the end of the third year of the Network, we are pleased to report that discussions are taking place with the secretary to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ageing and Older People about a special event to present the work of EQUAL to members of the Group and other Members of Parliament. It is hoped that this will take place in early 2005.

Time for Thanks

The success of the EQUAL Initiative and of the EQUAL Network is due, in no small part, to the interest, enthusiasm and good-sense of EPSRC staff. During the year those most involved with EQUAL, Dr Peter Hedges, Programme Manager, and Dr Emily Horwood, Associate Programme Manager, moved to new positions. We welcomed Dr Alison Wall and Dr Kedar Pandya who are continuing the tradition of offering indispensable and astute advice and encouragement to those involved with EQUAL. Thanks go to Peter and Emily for their support and encouragement along with our best wishes for the future.

The success of the Network has also rested on the advice and support of innumerable individuals - members of the Network and bystanders keen to promote the needs of older and disabled people, on the assistance of those who have sponsored and hosted workshops, on those who have spoken at them and on those who perhaps have taken the risk of wasting a day but have come away from workshops surprised and refreshed by the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of the EQUAL community. It has also relied on the good advice of the members of the Steering Committee and its Chairman, both during meetings and in-between. At the end of the three year period for which the Network has been funded, we would like to thank all of those who have supported and taken an interest in the Network.

Peter Lansley and Verity Smith
30th September 2004

Feedback from Workshops: Networking : *"Finding out that one of the researchers is now at my local university.", "Dept. of Transport – face to face", "Meeting and talking to the people actually doing the research, and to be able to challenge some parts of their research.", "Making people aware of what work we carry out and the needs of people with disabilities", "Meeting and speaking with people previously only contacted via email", "Potential collaborators introduced themselves to me", "Plenty!", "Swapped cards and organised a meeting", "Thank you for including email list of delegates", "Invitation to collaborate on research", "Diversity of academic and service providers present", "Able to discuss specific examples with peers. Met some new individuals.", "Met people I would not have met otherwise – with a view to future links/working/possible research", "Cross disciplinary new networks", "Meeting other researchers in similar fields", "Communication over lunch", "Knowing where and how to access information is useful. I was unaware of a lot of work that is going on in", "Met some useful people who are relevant for my current research", "Talked to Coordinator and discussed more about the Network"*

The **EQUAL Projects and Consortia** for more details see www.equal.ac.uk

Cognition, Dementia, Learning Disabilities

ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION OF COGNITIVE-MOTOR SKILLS FOLLOWING STROKE Reading & UCL

DESIGNING THE EXTERNAL PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT TO EXTEND QUALITY LIFE FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA Oxford Brookes

SMART REHABILITATION: TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS FOR USE IN THE HOME Sheffield Hallam, Ulster, Essex & Bath

DEVELOPMENT OF DEVICES FOR USE IN A SMART HOUSE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA Bath

A MULTI-MEDIA REMINISCENCE EXPERIENCE AND CONVERSATION SUPPORT FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE WITH MEMORY LOSS Dundee & St Andrews

THE PRODUCTION OF AN INPUT DEVICE FOR VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS FOR USE BY PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES Nottingham

DESIGN FOR DEMENTIA: AN EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH TO STANDARDS IN CARING ENVIRONMENTS Loughborough & Sheffield

INVESTIGATING ENABLING DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA (INDEPENDENT) Liverpool, Bath, Sheffield

Hearing, Seeing

DEAFNESS, DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT Reading

DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF A SELF-ADMINISTERED HEARING TEST FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE Cardiff

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AUDITORY NAVIGATION BEACON FOR BUILDING EMERGENCY EGRESS Leeds & Salford

AUDITORY LOCATION FINDER (ALF) WITH EMERGENCY CALL FACILITY FOR BLIND, ELDERLY & VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE Napier

DOCUMENT PRODUCTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE UMIST

HEARING LOSS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: THE EXPERIENCE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE Salford

ACOUSTIC GUIDELINES & TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR OPTIMISING LEARNING CONDITIONS IN CLASSROOMS FOR HEARING AND HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN South Bank & Institute of Education

GLARE DISABILITY AND ITS PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES IN PATIENTS WITH GLAUCOMA Heriot-Watt

Housing (see also Cognition, Dementia and Learning Disabilities)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADAPTATIONS USING MODULAR CONSTRUCT - A CASE STUDY OF ACCESSIBLE TOILETS & BATHROOMS South Bank

ADVANCED SENSORS FOR SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE Dundee

PROFILING THE HOUSING STOCK FOR OLDER PEOPLE, THE TRANSITION FROM DOMESTICITY TO CARING UCL

INTEGRATED CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR DISTRIBUTED SHELTERED HOUSING IN THE COMMUNITY Queen's

FEASIBILITY STUDY IDENTIFYING COST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY FOR REALISATION OF LIFE TIME HOMES IN EXISTING STOCK Ulster

SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE. NEW PRODUCTS, NEW PRACTICES , NEW COMMUNITIES Imperial, UCL, Dundee & Barnsley District General Hospital NHS Trust

FEASIBILITY STUDY: TECHNOLOGIES FOR TELECARE IN THE HOME Sussex

Design for All

i-design - INCLUSIVE DESIGN FOR THE WHOLE POPULATION Royal College of Art, Central St Martins & Cambridge

i-design 2 – PROVIDING TOOLS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE WIDER POPULATION Cambridge, Royal College of Art, Dundee, York

A DESIGN TOOL FOR THE MULTIVARIATE ESTIMATION OF PERCENTAGE ACCOMMODATED Loughborough

OLDER USERS' PERSPECTIVES ON MOBILITY - RELATED, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY KCL

AN INFORMATION/NAVIGATION AID FOR

COMPLEX INDOOR SPACE FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ESTABLISH OLDER PEOPLE'S NEEDS KCL
USING A MODEL OF HAND AND OBJECT INTERACTION TO OPTIMISE ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING WITHIN AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO PACKAGING PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT Loughborough

INTEGRATION OF BIOMECHANICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF FUNCTIONAL PERFORMANCE OF OLDER ADULTS INTO A NEW CAD PACKAGE FOR INCLUSIVE DESIGN Strathclyde

DESIGN FOR ALL OF A HOSPITAL PORTAL SERVING PATIENTS NEEDS FOR INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT Reading

Accessibility

MODELLING ACCESS WITH GIS IN URBAN SYSTEMS (MAGUS): AN APPLICATION TO WHEELCHAIR USERS IN NORTHAMPTON-SHIRE University College Northampton

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THOSE WITH IMPAIRED MOBILITY (I-AIM) Newcastle

DEVELOPMENT OF A WHEELCHAIR VIRTUAL REALITY MOTION PLATFORM FOR USE IN EVALUATING WHEELCHAIR ACCESS Strathclyde

ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN RURAL AREAS (APTRA) UCL

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THEORY & IMPLEMENTATION IN ACCESSIBILITY - A BEST PRACTICE APPROACH Salford

A FEASIBILITY STUDY INTO CREATING ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENTS WITHIN THE BRIEFING PROCESS Salford

INCLUSIVE DESIGN FOR GETTING OUTDOORS I'DGO Edinburgh College of Art/Heriot Watt, Oxford Brookes & Salford

What was helpful about the EQUAL Workshops: *“Met lots of people with similar interests and ideas, and also put faces to names”, “Good contacts and potential for my company and Inclusive Design project”, “Helps me to build in transport into the NSF for Older People”, “Huge store of statistical information and clear indicators of current research areas and gaps”, “Varied presenters from research, government etc with global down to local focus”, “Excellent variety of presentations”, “Primarily because it can be quite isolating working in this area away from London”, “I am only just embarking on research and found the whole day very interesting and motivating”, “Good to meet people from different professional backgrounds”, “Increased my understanding of some of the theoretical, practical and ethical issues and research”, “Thought provoking”, “Came away very positive”, “Clear focus, good speakers”, “Informative & reassuring as a new researcher in this area”, “Lots of interest in some of the speakers”, “Great variety of speakers and interests – stimulating”, “Content of all presentations useful & current”, “Interesting range of issues discussed”, “Very good speakers”, “Very imaginative”, “Awareness of issues facing the older workforce”, “Lots of leads to follow up”, “Excellent networking opportunities”, “Interesting work”, “Useful knowledge provided on research and practical solutions”, “Session chairs and Workshop chair are great!”, “Much of the research which was featured relates to my work – really useful”, “The amount of work being done to ensure social inclusion in a variety of fields”, “Made me consider other aspects of services for older people”, “Made me consider thoughts about collaboration on a broader scale”*