



research school of **informatics**

Project Title:	Government Policy on Citizens' Access to Public Sector Information
Student Name:	Barbara Buckley Owen
Supervisor Name:	Dr Louisa Cooke and Professor Graham Matthews
Start/End Date:	1 st October 2007 – 30 th September 2010
Funding Source:	Arts and Humanities Research Council
Department :	Information Science

Project Description:

This research is investigating how a specific aspect of eGovernment services – the provision of public sector information (PSI) to citizens – has been developed by ministers and senior civil servants in the UK and co-ordinated across departments. The focus is on top level policies which have an influence government-wide and the information policy implications of new technologies rather than the technologies themselves.

This research has identified the major relevant eGovernment policies enacted by the UK central government since 1996. These policies are being analysed through a content analysis of the policy documents, however published material only gives part of the picture. Through semi-structured interviews, the perspectives and experience of key players are being assessed and triangulated with analysis of the policy documents and comment on those documents, to obtain a clear view of how information policy is working and has worked, how it has developed and been evaluated, and what the main influences and influencers have been.

Building on work already done by others, a framework will be developed for evaluating eGovernment information policies in the 21st century, especially in relation to access to public information. This framework will be tested on the government's responses to the recommendations of both the Power of information review and the report of the Power of Information Taskforce. To inform the recommendations, the study will also examine examples of evaluation practice from other countries.

It is hoped that the results will be of value to the UK government and the information profession, but also to eGovernment and social policy researchers as an exemplar of policy evaluation over time and providing a useful addition to the literature on evaluation of policy.