



BEFRED - Consultation Process

A process of consultation has begun in respect of BEFRED. Two meetings were held at the beginning of November and as a result of these meetings a number of upgrade specifications have been drawn up, as follows: -

1. A field has been provided for inputting the name of the degree supervisor
2. Where applicable, a field has been provided for inputting the level of the degree (not of the thesis)
3. A facility has been provided to allow any Institution or organisation that is a part of BEFRED to have more than one Authorised Establishment Person (AEP)
4. Once authorised and submitted, there will be no facility to edit the title or abstract of the work, however, there will be an open text box included on each submission for the Institution or organisation to include further subsequent information. For example: if the work was carried out with another organisation, details of any competitions the work was entered into, notes about publication, what the student or author has gone on to do, or any other relevant information.
5. Institutions will be able to include, with their contact details, details of theses that are available in their library. This will enable Institutions that do not retain undergraduate dissertations to make such statements. Organisations will also be able to add details of how, if at all, they store their work and if it accessible to the general public.
6. Quality control rests solely in the hands of those supplying the data. Institutions and organisations will be able to state how they have selected the work entered on BEFRED and which work is available for consultation.
7. BEFRED will not change the content of items submitted, only the format (typeface, alignments etc).
8. We are looking at some mechanism to include work in progress for post-masters projects.
9. The BEF will look into the *TurnItIn* website to see if there is any scope to aid in the combating of plagiarism.
10. There will be a definition of undergraduate, masters, doctoral and post doctoral research included in layman's terms on the website. This will be included in an explanatory paragraph as an adjunct to the Home Page.

The two meetings highlighted one or two problems within the educational system, which we acknowledge.

Data submitting Institutions and organisations need to be aware that: -

- BEF is not proposing to change any of the information that is inputted onto BEFRED, neither will it police what is put on the database. As individual Institutions and organisations, quality control lies in your hands.
- Guidelines for writing Abstracts will not be included on BEFRED as it is recognised that Institutions and organisations will have their own conventions. This may, however, be a topic which the proposed equine research group might consider. When an abstract is uploaded it should be the same as that which is included within the dissertation or other work.

A Representative body?

There was complete support for the concept of having a body to encompass and represent equine research in its widest interpretation, with the ultimate goal of becoming a Member Body of the BEF. We are pursuing several suggestions as to how this may be achieved.