



Monday 26th March 2007

Dear Colleague

Re: BEF Research Portfolio and BEFRED progress

Further to previous correspondence I am pleased to be able to update you on the progress of the BEF's Research Portfolio and BEFRED.

After an intense period of initial BETA testing, BEFRED (www.befred.org) is now ready to move to the next stage. A number of minor alterations and improvements have been made to the database, which take into account comments made during the two meetings held in November and subsequent discussions. To this end BETA testing will begin in the next week by a number of volunteer Universities and Colleges.

Nine academic Establishments have agreed to take part in this next phase of testing of BEFRED. If you are from one of those Establishments I will shortly email you with your username and password to access the AEP (Authorised Establishment Personnel) log in. If you are not already participating, and you would like to have your say in the development of the project, please contact me and I will set up an account for you.

It is anticipated that BETA testing will continue through to the end of this academic year. This process will enable Universities and Colleges to fully explore the database and suggest further changes. A number of other developments will also be undertaken in the coming months:

- The concept of a review panel to oversee and monitor BEFRED will be explored.
- Journals will be contacted about uploading abstracts on to BEFRED (if you would like to suggest a journal that should be approached please let me know).
- The concept of a Research Lead Body, to become a Member Body of the BEF, as discussed at the November meetings, will be further investigated.

Instructions for Researchers / Students to upload their Abstracts and the AEP to accept or reject those Abstracts are attached. The list of categories and sub categories under which

work can be uploaded is also included with this letter. (Should you wish to add to this list please contact me.) Also attached are four sets of terms and conditions, for the Researcher / Student, AEP, general BEFRED users and a privacy policy. The last four documents can be found on BEFRED. If you have any questions about the content of these documents please do not hesitate to contact me.

The BEF's Research Portfolio and BEFRED were introduced to the wider equestrian community at the National Equine Forum, on Thursday 22nd March, in London. They were received with a very warm response from delegates. It has been anticipated that this will result in an increase in the number of people visiting BEFRED. Therefore, if your University or College was involved with WUERD, and you have not updated your contact details with me, please check them on www.befred.org to ensure they are correct.

To keep abreast of developments, please log on to the BEF's website at http://www.bef.co.uk/Equine_Research

If you would like any further information, or to discuss the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Georgina

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