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# Changing Horizons in Geography Education

HERODOT/EUROGEO  
CONFERENCE 2005

TORUN, POLAND

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September 2005



International Geography Education



# The Geographical Association (of England) : 19<sup>th</sup> Century Institution, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges

Professor Bill Chambers  
Liverpool Hope University  
President of the Geographical  
Association 2004-5



# Aims



- To describe the Geographical Association
- To share good practice with other geographical associations.
- To describe 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.
- To explore possible solutions to the challenges.



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# Session Structure



1. The GA Mission, history and context
2. GA Structure
3. Finance and membership
4. Functions
  - Conference
  - Publications
  - Branches
  - Professional Developments
5. Threats
6. The Future



# What is the Geographical Association?



- A charity
- Founded 1893
- Mission:

*'To further the learning and teaching of geography'*

- 1 Chief Executive (a geography educator)
- 13 administrative and professional staff
- 8000 members and volunteers
- Core purpose:

*'provision of Continuous Professional Development for teachers of geography'*

# History

- 1800s No Geography in UK schools & universities; exploration and mapping: poles, passages: Africa, Nile, Australia
- Schools: classics & 3Rs
- RGS Council : Enquiry into teaching Geography in UK & overseas: F. Scott Keltie Report 1885: great advances overseas (45 Chairs in continental universities)
- Oxford & Cambridge and Public Schools: Lantern Slides
- 4<sup>th</sup> April 1893 Letter: RGS, Oxford University, King's, Rugby, Marlborough Public Schools
- May 20<sup>th</sup> 1893 Meeting: Christ's Church Oxford: Mackinder and 10 Public School Masters



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Geographical  
Association

# Geography in England

- **Royal Geographical Society 1830**

It was founded for the advancement of geographical science. Exploration and colonisation.

- **Geographical Association 1893**

Exists to further the study and the teaching of geography in all categories of educational institutions from school to university in the UK and abroad. (2005)

- **Institute of British Geographers 1933**

The IBG is Britain's foremost professional body for geographical research, serving a membership from those in higher and further education, research and administration, concerned with the teaching, development and application of the subject. (1984)

- **Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) 1995**

A world centre for geographers and geographical learning dedicated to the development and promotion of knowledge together with its application to the challenges facing society and the environment. (2005)



# Geographical Association Structures to 2005



Council, Committees<sup>u</sup> and Working Groups

Council

Committees report to Council:

- Education Standing Committee
- Finance and Executive Standing Committee
- Membership and Professional Development Standing Committee
- Publications and Merchandise Standing Committee



# Working Groups

Report to and advise the Education Standing Committee



- **Primary and Middle School**
- **Secondary Education**
- **Post-16**
- **Assessment and Examinations**
- **Environmental and Sustainable Development Education**
- **Field Studies**
- **GeoVisions**
- **Independent Schools**
- **Information and Communications Technology**
- **International Committee**
- **Teacher Education**
- **Geography Advisers and Inspectors Network (GAIN)**

Both these bodies are able to create subcommittees, working groups and other groupings for specific purposes (such as boards for journals, the website, publications and conference – collectively termed ‘Communications Boards’).

## The Governing Body

### **Powers and duties**

Overall responsibility for the Association and its current and future well-being. Prudent stewardship of **financial resources** on behalf of the GA, in accordance with current law and its charitable aims.

## Membership

### President

Past President  
Senior Vice President  
Junior Vice President  
Chair, Education Committee  
Honorary Treasurer  
Named Trustees (2)  
Elected members (3)  
Co-options (up to 3)  
Total: 14. Quorum: 8

## Education Committee

### **Powers and duties**

Responsibility for formulating the GA’s **educational policy**; guiding the Governing Body on priorities for the educational work of the Association; ensuring that provision is made for all aspects of geographical education.

## Membership

Senior Vice President  
Junior Vice President  
Chair  
Vice Chair  
Chairs of Phase Committees (3)  
Chairs of Communication Boards (7)  
Chairs of Working Groups (8-10)  
Total: c. 23. Quorum: 10



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# Finances



- Membership subscriptions 34%
- Sales of merchandise and publications (books, journals) 26%
- Conference 7%
- Third stream projects (independence? Sponsorship by coys also now Gov funding TTA, DfES, DfID) 28%
- Major sponsors FSC and OS 2%
- Interest 3%



# Members



• Primary teachers	<u>830</u>
• Primary schools	<u>1925</u>
• <b>PRIMARY 3-11</b>	<b><u>2755</u></b>
• Secondary teachers	<u>1687</u>
• Secondary departments	<u>1001</u>
• <b>SECONDARY 11-16</b>	<b><u>2688</u></b>
• 6 <sup>th</sup> form, FE, HE staff	<u>1086</u>
• 6 <sup>th</sup> form, FE, HE institutions	<u>832</u>
• <b>POST-16</b>	<b><u>1918</u></b>
• <b>Plus:</b>	
• Teacher trainers	
• Advisors	
• Students	
• PGCE students	
• Retired	

# Membership Peaks and Troughs

<b>Year</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Trough</b>
1928	4449	
1941		2261
1947	5200	
1950		2944
1969	9138	
1982		6165
1992	10391	
2001	10003	
2005		8000



# Key functions



- Annual Conference
- Publications journals & books
- Branches
- Subject-centred professional development



# Annual Conference



- Location? Number? When?
- Resource exhibition 68
- Presidential address
- Keynote addresses
- Lectures by subject specialists
- Lecture Plus
- Teacher-to-Teacher
- Hands-on Workshops (including PGCE/NQT)
- Field trips
- Award presentations: GA Awards; Soddy Awards;
- Receptions
- Annual Dinner
- Civic Reception and buffet

# Annual Conference Derby 2005



## Sector %

• State	27
• Maintained	4
• Independent	10
• 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	2
• FE	2
• Student teacher	14
• Student	2
• NQT	3
• HE	9
• Advisor/Inspector	7
• Other	20

## Key Stage %

• EY Nursery	2
• KS1 Infant	5
• KS2 Juniors	7
• KS3 Lower Sec	30
• KS4 Upper Sec	29
• P16 Post-16	27

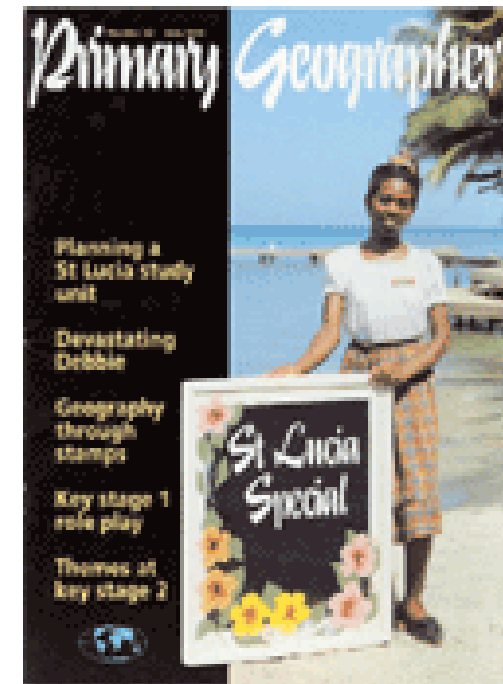
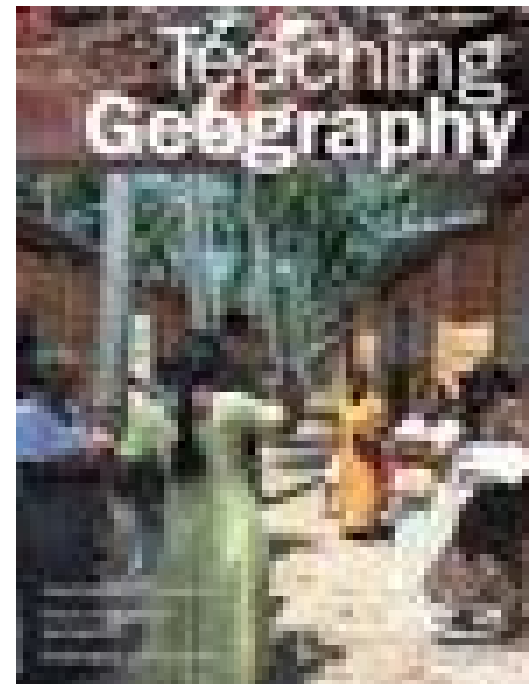


# 2005 Derby Conference Resource Exhibitors



- Resources maps, IT, equipment 15
- Publishers 11
- Field centres 11
- Charities 7
- Examination Boards 5
- General organisations 5
- Universities 5
- Professional organisations 5
- Campaigning organisations 3
- Projects 1

# Geographical Association Journals





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# Journals



- *Primary Geographer* 1989 42% of members
- *Teaching Geography* 1975 51%
- *Geography* 1925 (1901: *The Geography Teacher*) 39%
- *GA News* 1990s
- Online since 2004
- Website: [www.geography.org.uk](http://www.geography.org.uk)

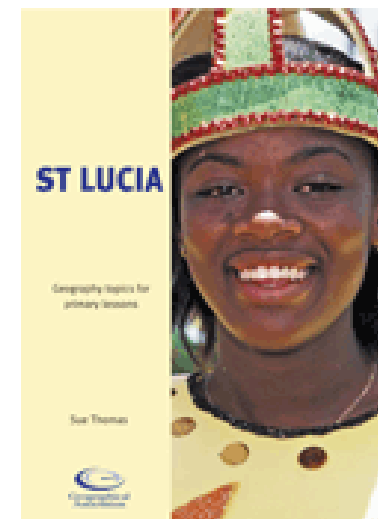
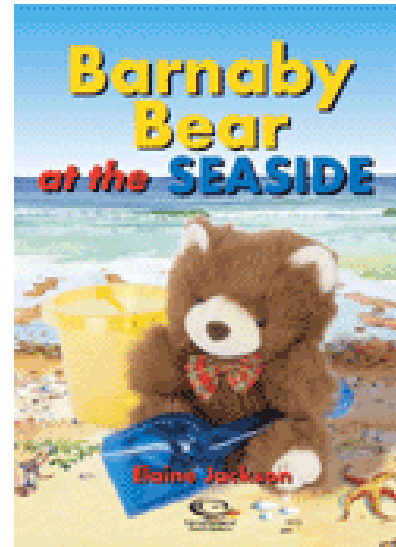
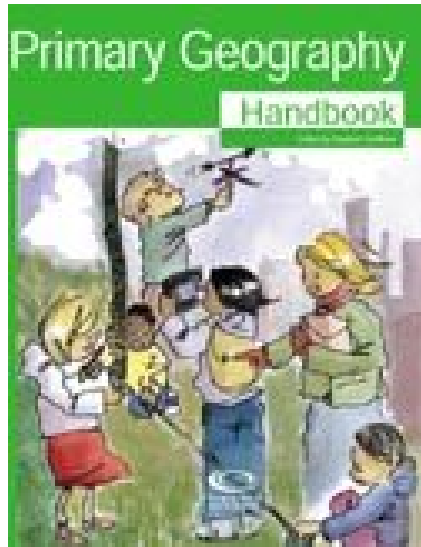
# Books

- Total: 260
- Top 1 = 17% income; Top 10 = 50%:
- Bottom 221 = 19%
- Number >1000 = 3; 500-900 = 6;
- Value >£10k = 6; £5-£9k = 4
- 16/20 top earners are Primary sector
- Top: Primary Geography Handbook & CD
- Top secondary: Learning Through Enquiry
- CURRICULUM**ONLINE** E-learning credits



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# Primary Books





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# Top Primary Books 2004-5



- Primary Geography Handbook
- Early Years Handbook
- Tocuaro (Mexico)
- Barnaby Bear: Seaside, Local Area, glove puppet, Brittany, Dublin, Norway, rescue, badger tunnel, Brittany bingo
- St Lucia (West Indies)
- Technically Geography (Y1/2)
- Kaptalamwa (Kenya)
- SuperSchemes

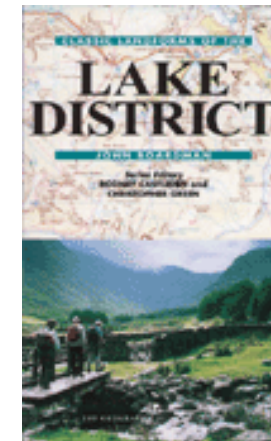
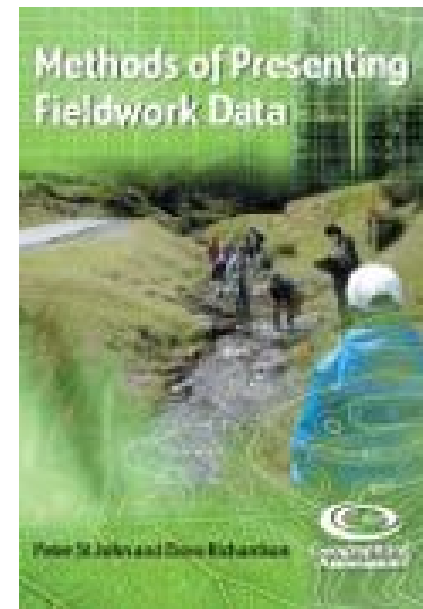
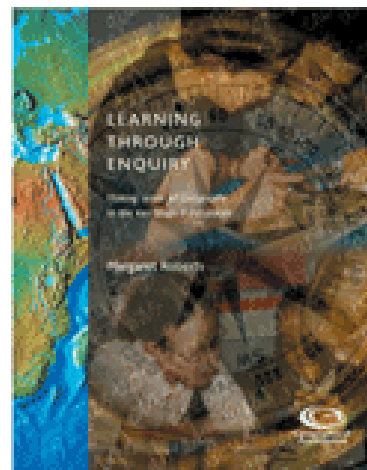
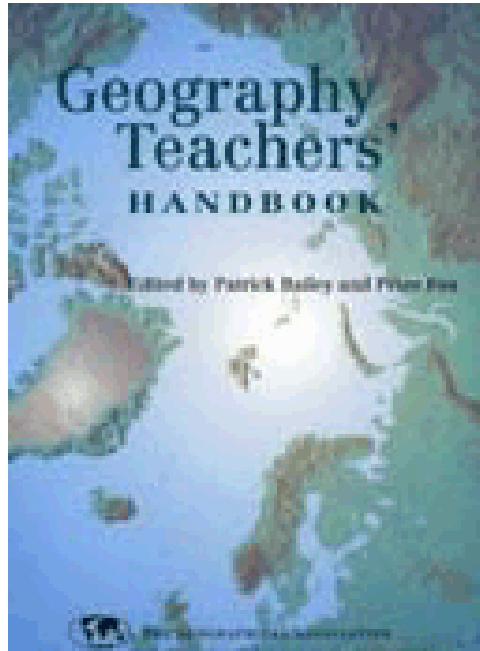


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# Secondary Books



Geographical  
Association





# Top Secondary Books 2004-5



- Learning through Enquiry
- A-Z Advancing Geography: Fieldwork
- Methods of Representing Fieldwork Data
- Methods of Statistical Analysis of F/W Data
- Geography Teachers Handbook
- The High Arctic
- Discovering Cities: London



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# Branches 2005



- First 1904 South London
- Total: since 1904 144
- Maximum at any one time: 75
- Largest: Birmingham 1250 in 1972
- 1993: 65
- 2005: 40
  
- Mainly for A-level pupils
  
- New development of Specialist School branches?
- New wave branches: professionally-led curriculum and pedagogic development?



# Branches



- Mainly Secondary A-level pupils
- Some teachers
- Some general interest adults
- Geography Lectures
- Sixth form conferences
- Worldwide local quiz
- Teachers' day conferences
- Primary in-service training workshops
- Wine tasting evenings
- Field excursions



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# Branches 2005



Bedfordshire  
Belfast  
Berkhamsted  
Blackpool  
Bradford  
Brighton and district  
Bristol  
Cambridge  
Central Lancashire  
Cheshire, Halton and Warrington  
Durham  
Guildford  
Hampshire  
Hereford  
High Weald  
Huddersfield and Halifax  
Hull

Isle of Thanet  
Kingston-upon-Thames  
Leicester  
Lincoln  
Liverpool and District  
Manchester  
Norfolk  
North Staffordshire  
Oxford  
Plymouth  
Sheffield  
South Devon  
Swansea  
Tyneside  
Wellington  
Worcester  
York and district



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# Scholarship of Teaching



- Practical knowledge about teaching
- Knowledge about pupils learning
- Synoptic capacity based on subject specialist knowledge
- Previously LEAs Exam Boards, HEIs examiners, textbooks inservice
- Now more centralised (NC, Ofsted, QCA Monitoring) focus on I&t not subject
- Subject associations are professional bodies with reservoirs of expertise to create, maintain and develop the synoptic capacity of teachers.



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# Initiatives



- Continuous Professional Development
- Professional Development Units:  
*Introducing GIS; Leading the Geography Department*
- Third Stream
- Online: forum; shop
- Consultancy
- Worldwide Online Quiz

# Professional Development Units

- Launched 2004
- Regionally-based
- Full day
- Linked to online Professional Diploma in Learning and Teaching (London Institute and Edexcel)
- *Geography and ICT in the Primary Years*
- *Principles of GIS*
- *Getting Started with GIS*
- *Leading the department*
- *Using Interactive Whiteboards in primary geography*
- *Making the most of technology in post-16 geography*
- But expensive: only GIS and Leadership viable
- Link to publications
- Work with LEAs or other partners
- Regional conferences



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# Third Stream Projects



- Teachers Support
- Teacher development
- Professionally led change
- Activist professionals



# Third Stream Projects 2002-5

- Valuing Places (DfID)
- Why Argue English with National Association for the Teaching of English) (DfES)
- Why Argue Science with Earth Science Teachers Association (DfES/Wellcome)
- ESD needs analysis (DfES)
- Where will I live? (Council for Architecture & the Built Environment)
- Pilot GCSE support (DfES)
- Geography from Square 1 (Soddy/DfES)
- Primary Geography Quality Mark (Soddy/DfES)
- GTIP (Geography Trainers' Induction Programme) (TTA)
- A Departmental Website (DfES)
- Global Dimension with the Development Education Association (DfID/National Lottery Fund)



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[www.geography.org.uk](http://www.geography.org.uk)

- False start 2003-4 - relaunch 2005
- Professional support and development
- Advice, guidance, stimulation and challenge
- To recruit- To add value - To be inclusive
- Ensure reputation and reliability
- Interact with conference, publications, projects
- NOT only a source of classroom materials
- Facilitate committee work



# Awards



## **GA Awards**

- To recognise material which is likely to make a significant contribution to geography in primary schools, secondary schools or colleges.

## **Frederick Soddy Trust**

- Awards for field work,

## **Bradford's Award**

- For departmental innovation in secondary schools.

## **GA International Initiatives Fund**

- The purpose of GAIF is to promote international relationships between individuals and associations concerned with geographical education



# Worldwise Pupil involvement



- Local Schools Quiz KS4
- Online quizzes (supported by ESRI)
- Regional Finals (supported by FSC)
- Worldwide Challenge (supported by FSC): free competitive fieldwork activity weekend 12 schools 3 pupils yr 8-10
- Worldwide Primary School of Year
- Picture gallery: display own images & promote own www
- Reinstate Geography Action Week (with SAGT)
- Junior GA?



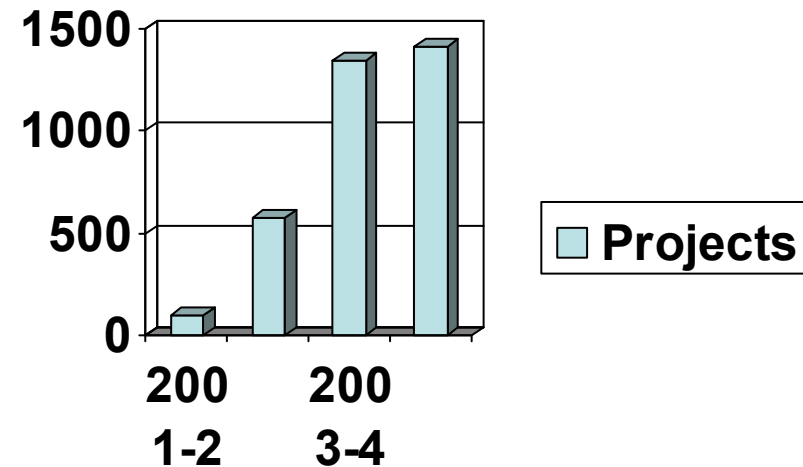
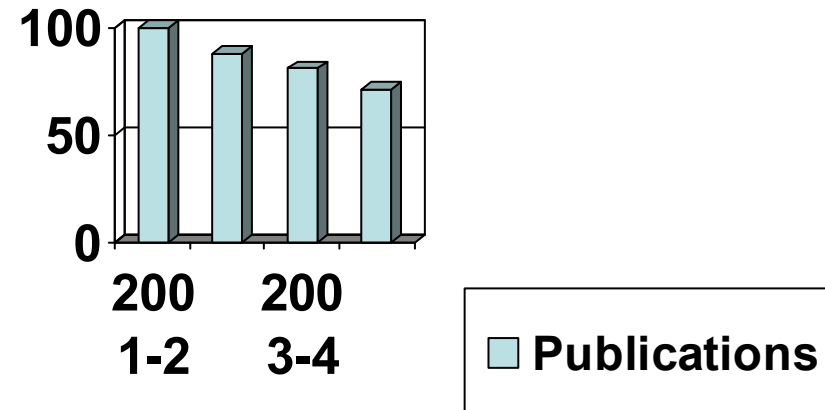
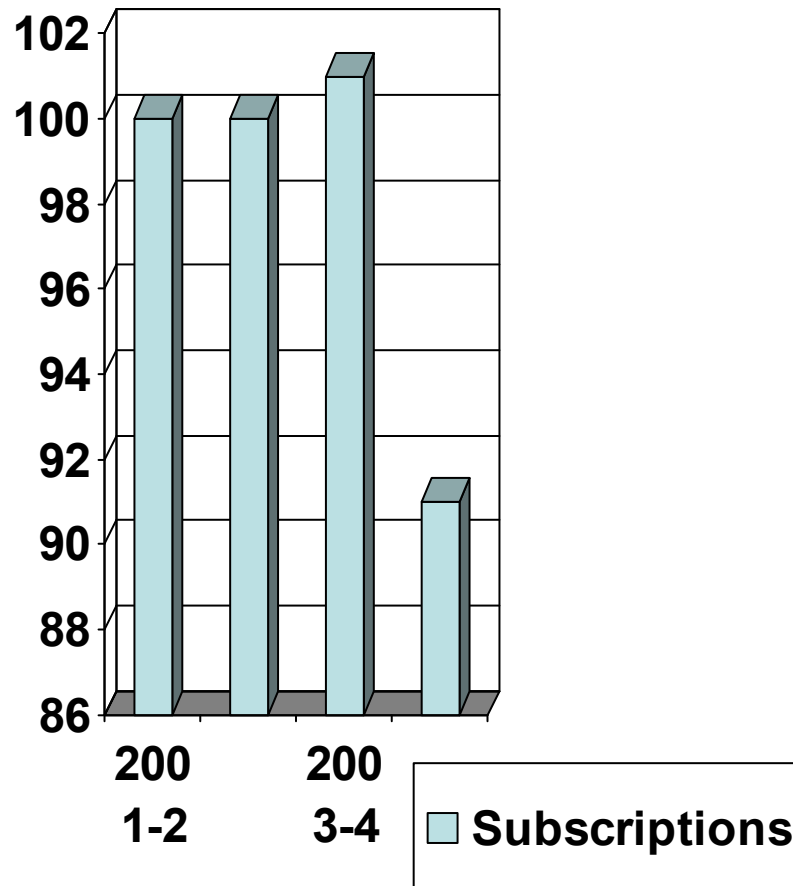
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# Partnerships



- RGS (with the IBG)
- Ordnance Survey, Field Studies Council, Meteorological Office; ESRI UK;
- Development Education Association; Council for Environmental Education;
- Department for International Development
- Teacher Training Authority
- History Association; English Association.
- Publishers: BBC; Pearson; David Fulton;

# Threats Income 2001-2005



# Threats

- Reduced popularity at GCSE (14yrs) and A-level (16yrs)
- Reduced popularity at University (18+)
- Core subjects (English, Mathematics, Science)
- New subjects (Humanities, Environment, Psychology, Media, IT, Law)
- Vocationalism (Business – IT)
- Centralised (Government) production of generic ‘support and guidance’ for teachers [www.qca.org.uk/geography/](http://www.qca.org.uk/geography/)
- Digital world: expectation of free materials (WWW)
- Bad press
  - *‘There is weaker provision in geography than any other subject’* (OFSTED 2003-4)
  - *‘The subject kids love to hate’* THES (26<sup>th</sup> August 2005)
- Ill-defined content
- Subject Association rivalry?

# Future for the Subject Association?

- Inextricably linked with subject of Geography
- Inextricably linked with funding of teaching
- Must meet needs of teachers
- Professional development of teachers (subject and pedagogy)
- Crucial role of Initial Teacher Training institutions:
- TTA: subject and professional membership
- Embrace the age of the web
- Relationship with other subject association (s)