

Why have a Society?

Evening talk for the Society of Location Analysis 18th September 2002 by Martin Callingham

Profession

A body of expertise, applied in accepted ways with an ethical underpinning
It has a perception amongst its members and a perception in the wider world
It is manifest by a body of people who are organised by a professional society

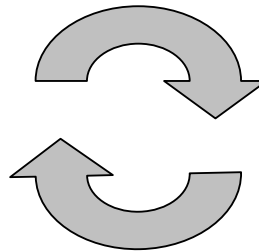
Manifestations of a Professional Society

Entrance requirements
Membership list
Evening meetings
Newsletter
Conference
Journal
Archives
Training course
Qualifications
Sponsoring publication
Grades of membership
Regulation
Disputes resolution
Acceptance by the external community including regulatory ones



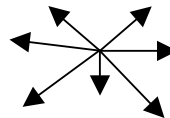
Organised

Members
Committee
Chairman
Secretariat
Director General
Sub-groups
 Committee
 Chairman
An evolving ethos
A constitution



On going debates

Relationship between the internal stakeholders – who is the customer?
Entry regulations
Supplier/user divide
Internal politics
Awareness of external stakeholders
Evolution of the Profession



Advantages to members

Being part of a community with networking opportunities
A sense of identity through this common interest group
Opportunity for professional development
Opportunity for staff development
Opportunity for personal development

A Society is:

An institution,
An organisation that endorses, supports and regulates,
A service product
A brand