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Annual Joint Conference 2010

On Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 April 2010, the annual joint conference between the Library Association of Ireland and cilip Ireland took place in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, South Dublin. The theme was **Smart Libraries**. A total of 109 delegates from all over the island of Ireland, from the UK and from a wide range of library services, attended along with eleven trade exhibitors. Ash from the Icelandic volcano prevented two speakers and another ten delegates who had booked from attending. The raison d'être for the conference was outlined by Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President of the Library Association of Ireland, in her introduction to the conference brochure where she noted that in these pressing times we need to operate to the optimum, to be efficient and effective and to communicate smartly with our users, our parent bodies and our funding agencies. We need to think smart, work smart and communicate smartly. These ideas were echoed by Elga Logue of cilip Ireland who stated in her introduction that the current recession was forcing all of us to look at smarter ways in which to deliver cost-effective and efficient library services that still advocate quality.

Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government who officially opened the conference, spoke of his support for libraries. In his address, he noted that Einstein once commented that 'in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity' and that we could therefore say that library authorities are now confronted with unprecedented opportunities in the midst of the current economic difficulties. He added that today, when the requirement for the skills and knowledge to participate fully in an information society is more necessary than ever, libraries have a central role in ensuring that the public has access to resources they need throughout their lives.

The wide conference programme addressed the challenges and opportunities outlined by the Minister, by providing a forum for thought-provoking papers on communications, the ways in which we engage with the various media and how we might use these more advantageously. In addition the conference sought to update the delegates on smart collaborative, cost-effective access models which benefit the public at little cost to the exchequer.

Members' Day 2010

cilip Ireland began practically addressing the discussion surrounding "Defining Our Professional Future" at its Members' Day, which took place on Wednesday 31st March, Ulidia Resource Centre, Belfast and at which both the CILIP President, Bidy Fisher, and the CDG President, Jon Scown, stressed, so passionately, the importance of "**Not only talking but acting**" and "**The Benefits of Professional Activism.**"

This topic was further developed through the distribution and completion of the online questionnaire which has, by its very nature, prompted essential open communication and is addressing three key themes which are, in many ways, driving this discussion: What will the Knowledge and Information domain look like in 2020? Where will a professional association fit into this domain? and How will you engage with this professional association? The crucial aspect will be to examine the findings and recommendations which "Defining Our Professional Future" will produce and then practically implement recommendations to ensure that CILIP, as a professional body, does precisely what the CILIP President's presentation clearly advocated – "Not only talking but acting."

Deep Web Searching

A full-day course entitled Deep Web Searching took place on the 23rd March at the Regional Training Unit, Belfast. The course concentrated on introducing the 'Deep Web' and basic 'Web 2.0' concepts and participants were introduced to Wiki and Blogging software. There was plenty of time for delegates to gain practical experience of the sites and methods of searching. The course also offered suggestions for keeping up with Deep Web and Web 2.0 resources, and the beginning of Web 3.0 (the Semantic Web).

The course was delivered by Paula Younger, Library Manager at North Somerset Healthcare Library and was very successful due to its extremely practical "hands on" element. Representatives from a wide cross section of library sectors attended.

Northern Ireland Book Award

CILIP received a bequest from the late Mrs Wendy Drewett, formerly Head of Children's Services, Buckinghamshire. The conditions of the bequest stated that *"it is my wish that this gift shall be known as the Wendy Drewett Bequest and shall be used to keep children's librarianship alive by funding research and supporting students or other such activities that support children's librarianship"*.

A steering group was set up by Council at its meeting on 22nd January 2009 to administer the bequest and invited bids for support from this fund.

Background

Local book award schemes to encourage and develop a love of reading have been springing up in the past few years in England and Scotland, but until now there has been no such award in Northern Ireland. In an attempt to rectify this, two school librarians, Ann Cowdrey, who is also a cilip Ireland committee member, and Kathy Lindsay, decided to introduce such a scheme to the Province. Funding for the initial year came from the Wendy Drewett bequest for children and reading and this was acknowledged in the award title. Scholastic Book Clubs and Fairs provided each of the 22 participating schools with one copy of each of the 12 short-listed titles and this, combined with sponsorship of some prizes and

one author visit, is indicative of their commitment to the initiative.

The Initiative

Children are the driving force behind the scheme and it is their suggestions which provide the foundation. All year 8-9 school pupils in Northern Ireland were invited to submit nominations which fit specified criteria. Booksellers, too, submitted nominations according to sales figures, as a fair reflection of what young people were actually reading and again the nominations had to fit the specified criteria.

The whole emphasis is on books that are exciting and encourage children to read more books and the over-riding aim is to see book-centred social interaction and debate amongst young people from all community sectors.

Author events, book-related drama workshops and creative writing events, centred round a short list of books, took place between November 2009 and March 2010, with pupils voting for their favourite title by a specified closing date - 17th March 2010.

The First Northern Ireland Drewett Book Award winner was The Faceless Ones by Derek Landy. The Faceless Ones is the third "Skulduggery Pleasant" book.

Further details of the event and more information about the Northern Ireland Drewett Book Award can be obtained by visiting its web site:

www.nibookaward.org.uk

cilip Ireland: Taking You To Where You Want To Be.