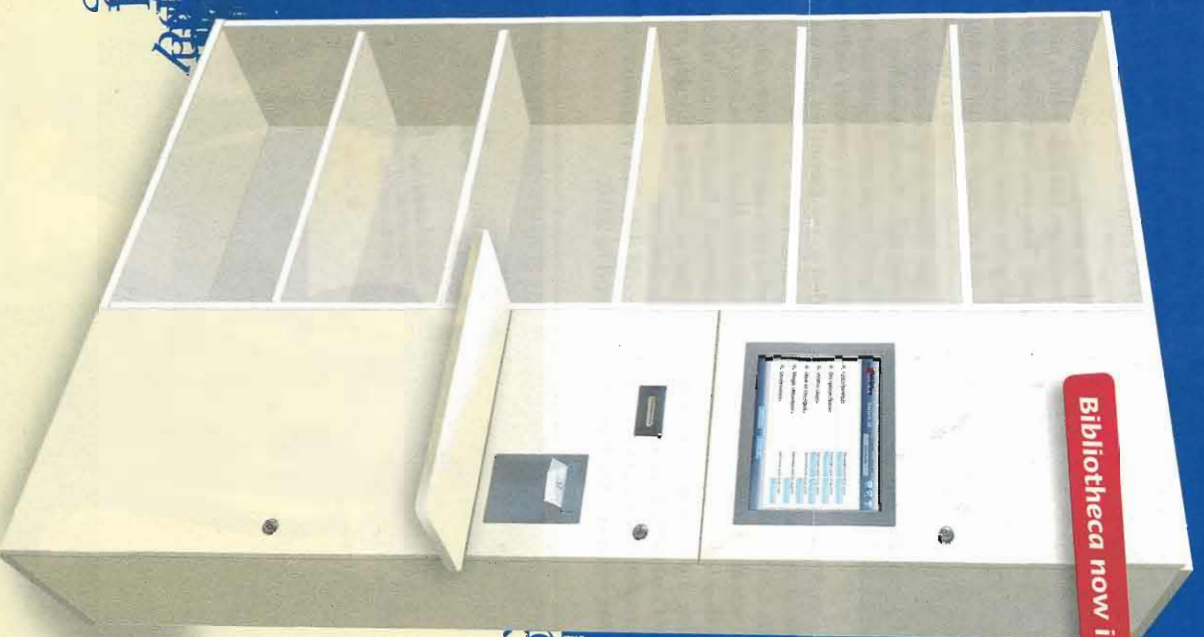


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CILIP GROUPS



No substitute for face-to-face chat



The CLSIG stand at Online was a good place for face-to-face networking

Gazette asked one of CILIP's special interest groups – CLSIG – what they get out of attending events such as Online Information.

Hanna Lewin explains.

We managed to persuade lots of CILIP members to renew or pick anew

CLSIG as one of their special interest groups. We also signed up a few subscribing members on the day and ran out of membership forms: we had to photocopy more...

'Although some people may feel that traditional conferences and exhibitions have had their day, for us Online provides an annual focus for face-to-face networking with a wide range of information professionals that we wouldn't otherwise meet – and there is a strong international dimension. There is no substitute for face-to-face networking and this happened on the stand during the day but also at evening parties and receptions organised by vendors and suppliers.'

Our experience at Online was extremely positive. Once entered on to our stand by giant jelly beans and Stan the masseur, people were happy to chat and we managed to persuade lots of CILIP members to renew or pick anew CLSIG as one of their special interest groups. We also signed up a few subscribing members on the day and ran out of membership forms: we had to photocopy more. We signed up our first member from Libya, who is now one of 53 overseas members. We had comments about

expanding our popular seminar series to members from outside of London, something that we have already done: our Web 2.0 seminar is moving to Birmingham in January.

The expansion of our CPD activities really does depend on our members being active and making connections to make events possible, so we were keen to make new contacts with people in other special interest and professional groups and encourage them to think about setting up local groups or organising joint events.

Some visitors to our stand were surprised to learn that our seminars are open to all. We certainly try and appeal to those working in commercial, legal and scientific settings, as we want more discourse between people who work in different sectors.

Many of our members said they were under threat of redundancy and we seek to provide networking and learning opportunities via our seminars and website (which we plan on updating) and with resources such as our newsletter.

We celebrated a great year for CLSIG with a drinks reception on the Wednesday and look forward to next year.

Online provided a great opportunity for the committee to meet members new and old.

Thanks to all our sponsors – Incisive Media, Bailey Solutions and Sue Hill – and to our fabulous masseur Stan and congratulations to Alison Attard, Ipsen Developments, who won the capion competition.

■ Hanna Lewin is CLSIG committee member for publicity. She is Information Specialist, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.