

Library & Information Plans, by Carl Clayton

Sarah Dobson makes a useful point about the difficulty of organising events outside London. Members often complain that organisations are London biased and ignore the rest of the country but the fact is that it can be very difficult to attract enough people to events outside London.

If ICLG members are interested in organising local events they may find it helpful to get in touch with other regional networks. LA Branches are a good contact. Library and Information Plans (LIPs) which co-ordinate all the L&I services in a given area may also be able to help. LIPs aim to co-ordinate all the Library and Information services in a given geographical or subject area. They seek to involve all information-providing organisations - not only libraries - in the public and private sector. Their purpose is to provide a framework within which planned co-operation and co-ordination can take place.

The various LIPs have been set up by their members to meet their own specific needs and their structures and functions vary. Examples of the activities they may undertake include co-ordinated collection development; joint purchasing; access agreements; inter-library loans; local networking and co-operative training activities.

There are currently seventeen geographical-based and eight subject-based organisations that identify themselves as LIPs which are members of the National Forum for Information Planning. The coverage of the geographical LIPs is not complete and many areas are not covered. The current geographical LIPs are:

- ALLIN Access to Libraries for Learners in Northamptonshire
- BBi Beds and Bucks Information
- BLIP Berkshire Library & Information Partnership
- CLIP Bournemouth and Poole Conurbation LIP
- CWLIS Consortium of Welsh Library & Information Services
- FIRST Forum for Information Resources in Staffordshire
- GI Grampian Information
- Hatrics The Southern Information Network
- KLIP Kent LIP
- LASER London & South Eastern Library Region
- LIP Information Plan for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland
- LISC(NI) Library & Information Services Council (Northern Ireland)
- SASLIC Surrey & Sussex Libraries in Co-operation
- SHAIR Shropshire Access to Information Resources
- SINTO The Sheffield Information Organisation
- TAFLIN Tayside & Fife Library & Information Network
- Wiltshire LIP

The Subject-based LIPs are:

- Aerospace LIP
- ARLIS Arts Libraries Society
- e-BIN Business Information Network
- DEVLIP Development Studies LIP

- LINC Health Panel
- LINC NEWSPLAN Panel
- Music LIP
- Sports LIP

Further information about LIPs and the NFIP Membership Map and current Contacts List are available from Pat Wressell & Associates. Tel: 0191 281 3502 Fax: 0191 212 0146 email pwa@wressell.demon.co.uk

My own LIP, SINTO - the Sheffield Information Organisation, is always interested in ideas for training or networking events. If you want more information about LIPs I can provide a leaflet on multi-sectoral information planning. The National Forum for Information Planning (the umbrella organisation for LIPs) publishes a Directory of LIPs at a price of thirty pounds. Please contact me if you want more details.

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