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Newsletter UCRG

Chair's message

This year's joint conference with COFHE titled 'Libraries make a difference: building a learning culture' focussed on the key role libraries have in the learning process. Thanks to the hard work of the organising committee of both UC&R and CoFHE members, to the excellent speakers and to the active participation of the delegates it was a truly successful event.

Building a culture to enable learning involves ensuring that we continually learn and develop ourselves. CILIP is going in the right direction with the decision to move towards a light touch but compulsory CPD scheme. This is absolutely necessary if we are to gain credibility with employers regarding the value of CILIP qualifications and membership.

Libraries' central role in the research process will be the focus of our autumn national one day conference with the theme of 'Supporting Research'. This will be held on November 24th 2008, and will have the theme of supporting research. Confirmed speakers so

far include Paul Ayris (University College London), Debby Shorley (Imperial College London and UK Research Reserve), and Jo Webb (De Montfort University and co-author of 'Supporting Research'). More details will be available soon.

Also this Autumn we will be holding a planning session to consider how we can contribute to CILIP policy development and to develop operational objectives for the group. If you have any issues you wish to raise at the meeting please do contact your Regional Representative, any National Committee member or myself. We look forward to hearing from you.

Liz Jolly
Chair CILIP University College and
Research Group



Chartered Institute of
Library and Information
Professionals

Keep in touch

Group website

For up to date news of events, reports, activities and links to regional groups remember to visit the UC&R website at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/ucr>

Mailing list

Keep up to date with the UC&R mailing list – lis-ucr – by joining at www.jisemail.ac.uk

Librarians go Lambananas:

A report from the Joint CoFHE/UC&R conference, Liverpool Hope University, June 2008

I've been in my first professional post for nearly a year now. When the opportunity to attend my first conference came up I was more than happy to take it. The theme of the 2008 conference was 'Libraries make a difference: building a learning culture'. A very timely topic given the challenges that libraries are facing: balancing the needs of users from the 'Google Generation' and those of mature and part-time students, and the need to create more effective and flexible learning spaces for these users. This conference offered countless opportunities to find out what colleagues from other institutions are doing, and to share ideas for improving our marketing, teaching and learning roles within the library and beyond. Of course the real eye-openers were the social activities...! It was particularly fun being in Liverpool during its year as European Capital of Culture.

The conference kicked off with a big welcome from Linda Taylor, Director of Library Services at Liverpool Hope University, and Joyce Little, Head of Libraries and Information Services in Liverpool. Prior to Joyce's talk, we watched a colourful, musical-and inadvertently amusing-video celebrating the city's status as European Capital of Culture 2008. It was inspiring to hear Joyce speak about the central role of the city's public libraries in engaging and empowering the communities, and helping people from different cultures to fulfil their potential.

Dr David Collins CBE, the Principal of South Cheshire College, spoke about the development of a successful learning culture. Clear values, openness of communication within the organisation and communicating the vision are all essential to developing the learning culture.

The first day concluded with a workshop by Debbi Boden and Ronan O'Beirne. They explained that information literacy (IL) and digital literacy do not go hand in hand; how many of our users can use a computer and multitask, but skim over information and are unable to search effectively? The speakers discussed POP-i and Lollipop HE, which are online tutorials for library staff in the public and academic sectors to develop their own IL skills. Find out more at <http://www.lobelollipop.com/>

Evening activities included a screening of 'The Hollywood Librarian', which included some amusing clips portraying librarians through film. While quite rightly celebrating the (often undervalued) work of librarians, I couldn't help but feel that it was a little bit cheesy! Perhaps a British version is due? This was followed by a quiz and drinks in the Students' Union. Sadly, the 'Magical Mystery Tour' team did not win – those were hard questions!

On the second day, I attended Kathy Ennis' workshop on marketing, or 'Selling fridges to Eskimos'. Try having a 'because' conversation; the first person (seller) tells the other what their selling point is and the second person (customer) simply asks 'why?' or builds on this with reasons why they can't see the benefit. This forces the seller to think carefully about reasons why that particular feature really is a buying point for the customer. Once we can see things from the user's perspective then we will be able to market our library services more effectively.

“It was inspiring to hear Joyce speak about the central role of the city's public libraries in engaging and empowering the communities.”

Margaret Weaver talked about learning spaces at the University of Cumbria in her workshop. The implementation of flexible learning spaces is intended to encourage less teaching and more learning and focus on the student's need to learn through conversation not



isolation. Benefits included space to rehearse presentations and have discussions; the development of new interactions between students and staff; and being able to use the space to relax, work, multitask, read or lounge. The modern design and flexible space not only supports the needs of learners but also helps to foster a sense of professionalism. Something for us all to consider as we refurbish and redesign our libraries! Brigid Badger's session on the third day about the Social Learning Zone at Liverpool JMU complemented this nicely. Student and staff feedback revealed the popularity of casual seating, spaces overlooking green scenery, sofas and low tables, semi-enclosed pods for brainstorming and roving staff.

On the third day, most of us made it in after a late night out in the Cavern Quarter for the packed schedule of plenaries and workshops. Alison MacKenzie of Edge Hill University spoke about the 'roles of libraries as core to academic success'. Alison explained how libraries are currently in a transitional state, whereby the service must be built around the user workflow. There needs to be more joined up thinking between IT, the library, media and online learning and a new academic team consisting of the learning resource specialist, the study skills guru, the learning technologist, the researcher, the student and the academic. It's all about increasing our visibility.

Gareth Johnson's workshop on using comedy in teaching was refreshing. Who would have thought a goose, a weasel and a host of other characters could make data protection funny? In this session we considered how humour can make a teaching session more punchy and increase attention levels. In small groups we used some basic screenwriting skills to develop our own ideas for a short video clip. I couldn't possibly tell you what my group came up with as it was too rude...it did however aim to explain silent and social spaces in the library to students! Look out for Gareth's videos at www.youtube.com/llordllama



Professor Michael Scott, the Principal of the NE Wales Institute of Higher Education, gave us all some pointers on 'making the case to your Principal' to get project funding. The essential message was to not mislead, second-guess or blackmail the budget holder. Instead, explicitly demonstrate how your proposal meets the institutional mission and its priorities. Be honest about costs, and be clear and concise in your report. Work with them and help them to address the challenges they are facing and you are more likely to be successful in your bid.

Anthony Beal's workshop encouraged us to consider the use of Web 2.0 tools in lesson planning. Do you use YouTube, FaceBook, RSS feeds, SlideShare, stumbleupon, delicious, or Twitter? So many tools, so little time! However, it's important to find out what the students are using and then use Web 2.0 tools appropriately, not for the sake of it. Visit: <http://www.tinyurl.com/6btbnc>

Once the CoFHE and UC&R AGMs were concluded, the hard work was over and the business of getting ready for the big dinner at Liverpool Town Hall could get underway. The dinner was excellent, and the venue spectacular. We had speeches from noteworthy people, including the Mayor and the author Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Always be sure to take a posh outfit with you to a conference! I couldn't possibly embarrass anyone (particularly those I work with) but let's just say I saw a whole new side to librarians! Needless to say, it was another late night... I would recommend that anyone who has an opportunity to attend conferences such as CoFHE/UC&R goes for it – it really is fantastic fun and you will come away with a whole host of new contacts and ideas, and even a few new friends. It reinvigorates your enthusiasm and reminds you of the central and important role we have in our institutions and communities. See you at the next one!

Sarah Oxford, Academic Liaison Librarian (Education); Information & Learning Services, University of Worcester was sponsored to attend this conference by UC&R West Midlands

UC&R Innovation Award

The CILIP University Colleges & Research Group is proud to invite applications for the 2009 Innovation Award.

This award is intended to reward and support an individual, group or team pursuing innovation and excellence in the broad area of learning and teaching and learner support within academic, national or research libraries. Relevant activity is defined very broadly and might involve one, or a combination of the following:

- Initiating or developing new services
- Creating learning materials, packages etc
- Developing relevant applications of new technology
- Establishing new partnerships/ collaborative relationships

- Undertaking research into any aspect of learner support
- Writing or achieving publication of a relevant piece of work
- Delivering a conference paper
- Staging a relevant event/promoting an individual initiative

The award is open to any member of staff employed in academic, national or research libraries in the UK and to students hoping to work in these institutions.

Applications will be assessed according to:

- The strength of the proposed project in relation to the purpose
- How the funding will be used
- The benefits identified for individuals/groups/teams, institutions and learners

The recipient must submit a report within 12 months of receiving the award suitable for publication in the Group's newsletter and for publication on the website.

Applications

Please contact the UC&R Honorary Secretary to request an application form:

Amanda Poulton
 CILIP UC&R Hon. Secretary
 Academic Team Manager: Learning and Skills Development
 Kimberlin Library
 De Montfort University
 The Gateway
 Leicester
 LE1 9BH

Email: apoulton@dmu.ac.uk
 Tel: 0116 2078041

The closing date for receipt of applications will be 30th November 2008.

Alison Northover Bursary

The CILIP University Colleges & Research Group is proud to invite applications for the 2009 Alison Northover Conference Bursary.

This £750 bursary is awarded to commemorate the contribution to librarianship made by Alison Northover, Deputy Head of Reader Services in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and committee member and Treasurer of the University, College and Research Group of what was then the Library Association. Alison died aged 48 in July 1997. She was committed to professional development, both for herself and for others.

Purpose

The bursary is intended to support professional development for qualified library staff in current membership of UC&R by providing for funds to attend a course or conference that they would otherwise be unable to fund. While the award may contribute towards meeting fees it will not necessarily cover travel expenses. The bursary is not intended to contribute to fees or living expenses associated with library school courses.

Previous winners include

- Dr Judith Keene
- Penny Dale
- Alison Rudd-Clarke

Requirements

Candidates should preferably be in current employment in library/information work and must be in current membership of the UC&R Group and CILIP. Successful candidates will be expected to give a report suitable for publication in the Group's newsletter and for publication on the website.

Applications

Applicants are asked to submit the following:

- A brief CV
- CILIP membership number and confirmation of membership of UC&R Group
- Details of how the bursary will be spent *
- Two supporting references (in signed and sealed envelopes)
- A rationale (no longer than 500 words) of how the bursary will support their personal and professional development in academic library and information work.



- A covering letter of application
- Any additional supporting documentation

* If exact sums are not known on application, an estimate may be given.

Deadline

Four copies of letters of application and any supporting documentation should be sent to arrive no later than 30th November 2008 to:

Amanda Poulton
 CILIP UC&R Hon. Secretary
 Academic Team Manager: Learning and Skills Development
 Kimberlin Library
 De Montfort University
 The Gateway

Recent News from Regional Groups

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

The group's AGM was held in March at Radley College near Oxford and included a tour of the Richard Morgan Library and the historic buildings of the college. In the Autumn of this year there will be a joint CoFHE/UC&R event with CoFHE, taking place at the Black Horse House, Reading, on Wednesday 26th November.

East Midlands

A very successful Members' Day was held in April at the British Geological Survey in Keyworth. The day included a presentation on the future of academic libraries by Liz Jolly and the 'Google Generation' report by Ian Rowlands. In the afternoon Phil Bradley led a session on Web 2.0 and its applications in academic and research libraries. A training event on Informs and Adobe Presenter software was held at Leicester University on the 18th June. Our AGM will take place in early September and will be held at Leicester University, incorporating a tour of the new library and a presentation on its design.

London

Recent events have included a Networking event held in February. Visits have taken place to the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, the Library of the Department of Ancient Egypt and the Sudan at the British Museum, and the Royal Geographical Society. Attendees have been asked for donations to the UC&R international charity (Book Aid International). A joint event with ISG is to be held on October 8th entitled Policing Library Users: Ethics and Practice.

Northern

AGM was held in April at Sunderland's new Gateway building and was combined with an event on Web 2.0 - our future,

their space. The guest speakers were Lucy Keating and Luke Burton. Lucy concentrated on the potential of Web 2.0 technologies and Luke Burton, who is our student rep, covered the student perspective. A free summer visit was held at Palace Green Library at Durham University.

North West

Events included a day event in April entitled 'How Green is your Library?' at the Newton Rigg Campus, Penrith, University of Cumbria and a visit to the Working Class Movement Library, Salford

Scotland

The AGM was held in February at Queen Margaret University's new campus combined with a visit to the University's LRC and a talk from the Director of Information Services & LRC. In May a joint event was held with SALCTG (Scottish Academic Libraries Co-operative Training Group) entitled "A Place For Learning: Re-Thinking Academic Library Buildings" which had 4 very interesting & entertaining speakers. In June UC&R Scotland hosted a workshop at the CILIPS Conference, held in Peebles, "Developing a framework for cross-sectoral partnership working". Planning is underway for a visit to the Edinburgh College of Art library (to be held in November), and to run an event in spring 2009 on the theory of "ethical weeding". This last event is to be run jointly with CoFHE Scotland.

South West

The second event this year was held in June at the University of the West of England in Bristol, "Library 2.0 you: experiences of Web 2.0 in the library environment". In February an event was held at Plymouth in February entitled "Switched on in the South West". Our next event will not be until June 2009 and will be a 2 day conference on supporting research, to be held at Dartington, the location of an earlier conference held in 2005 on the same subject.

Wales

Recent events include March workshop “Skills for Supporting Learners” at Swansea University, led by Derek Goldman, an experienced educational trainer and project manager who works with local authorities and the Open University and provided this course for CILIP Scotland. In April we hosted the Welsh premiere of ‘*The Hollywood Librarian*’ at the University of Glamorgan, and a morning event was held in May at Cardiff University on supporting researchers. In June we sponsored a joint presentation from UC&R Wales Committee members on European Perspectives from Germany and Denmark at the Gregynog Colloquium.

Yorkshire & Humberside

An event entitled “Shall we dance? - Universities working in partnership with their wider communities” was held in Sheffield in February. The event was intended to explore partnerships between libraries and other institutions to see how they add value to the community in which they are based. The subjects covered during the day included the INSPIRE and WELCOME! schemes, Project SCULE, a case study in collaborating in a joint cultural facility at the University of Lincoln, licensing for additional users via JISC licensing agreements and supporting Higher Education Summer Schools at Sheffield Hallam. In June another event “Making it Better ? : The Higher Education / NHS Library Interface” was held at York St. John University, looking at the relationship between the NHS and HE libraries.

Book Aid International – UC&R’s International Charity

In late 2007 UC&R adopted Book Aid International as our international charity. UC&R undertakes to publicise the work of Book Aid International and raise funds for its projects. Activities so far have included fundraising through a raffle at the joint UC&R/CoFHE conference and donations taken at group holding a joint seminar with the International International’s work.



Book Aid International promotes literacy in opportunities for disadvantaged people in order poverty. For more on the organisation go to:

developing countries by creating reading and learning to help them realise their potential and eradicate <http://www.bookaid.org>

An Introduction to Your Committee

Elections were held earlier this year and the current University College and Research Group Committee members are;

- Chair: Liz Jolly (currently Associate Director (Services and Operations), Information Services Division, University of Salford)
- Vice Chair: Jo Webb (Academic Services Manager and National Teaching Fellow, Kimberlin Library, De Montfort University)
- Hon Secretary: Amanda Poulton (Academic Team Manager: Learning and Skills Development, Kimberlin Library, De Montfort University)
- Hon Treasurer: Jon Purcell (Director of Library Services, University of St Andrews)
- Conference Secretary: Jane Marshall (Business Information Officer, Eddie Davies Library, University of Manchester)
- International Officer: David Clover (Information Resources Manager/Librarian Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London)
- Marketing Officer: Christina Lewis (College Librarian, University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester)



Robert Atkinson (Deputy Librarian, Birkbeck, University of London)
Prof Sheila Corral (Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield)
Paul Jeorrett (User Services Manager, Glyndŵr University)
Clare Langman (Information Specialist, Library & Information Services, Aston University)
Jo Myhill (Academic Liaison Librarian, University of Bedfordshire)
Jo Norry (Head of Service: Libraries & Learning Innovation, Leeds Metropolitan University)
Chris Powis (Deputy Director (Academic Services), University of Northampton)
Oliver Pritchard (Assistant Director, Student & Learning Support, Murray Library, University of Sunderland)
Helen Westmancoat (Deputy University Librarian and University e-Learning Fellow, York St John University)
Sue White (Head of Library Services, University of Huddersfield)

Regional representatives also attend meetings – for further details please see our webpage <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/ucr/about/committee/default.htm>

Relay – Call for Papers

Relay is the journal of the CILIP University College and Research Group. Under new editors David Clover and Helen Westmancoat, articles are currently being sought for issues to be published (in electronic form only) from issue 59, due late 2008.

Articles on any matters of interest or relevance to those working in national, research or academic libraries are welcome. Articles should go beyond mere news reports or case studies by placing individual initiatives in a broader context or overview.

Some suggested themes for articles include:

- Supporting research and/or teaching
- Information literacy
- Innovative uses of technology and the practical application of these – for example use of Web 2.0, E-Theses and institutional repositories
- Reports on ‘Green’ initiatives in libraries
- Aspects of library management
- International aspects of research and academic librarianship
- Ethical issues in academic and research librarianship
- Aspects relating to national, museum and other research libraries

Please contact either of the editors to discuss any proposed article. First time writers are welcome and will be supported through the publication process.

David Clover david.clover@sas.ac.uk

Helen Westmancoat h.westmancoat@yorks.ac.uk