

FIL Conference at Peebles

It was both a privilege and pleasure to be able to attend the FIL conference in June 2008. I would like to thank SWRLS for providing the funds for attending the conference. Having worked in an ILL department in the HE sector and currently working for an Independent college for the past two years I felt that I would benefit from attending a conference that specialises in the area of ILL and its progress in the 21st century. Besides, I would learn the most recent developments and changes to the ILL system.

Around 75 delegates attended the conference from around the country and speakers from other parts of the world. The conference had a packed three days programme.

With an early start from home at 4.45 in the morning to the airport I felt I might fall asleep in the taxi. However, the taxi driver kept me engrossed over a discussion about his daughter who was about to finish school and choose a career. I met Lyn at the airport (thanks to our mobiles) and our journey began!

We arrived at Peebles at 3pm, very tired but felt very refreshed at the sight of the beautiful location and the hotel. At 4.30pm new delegates were welcomed over tea and we introduced each other. This was an excellent opportunity to find out about the conference, and meet committee members and other first time delegates.

There was a welcome speech by Rosie Goodier (chair of FIL)

The first keynote paper was delivered by Derek Law from University of Strathclyde.

Day 2 started with Robert Krall – Document supply trends

University of Pennsylvania

Karen Blakeman - Web 2.0

Karen spoke about Web 2.0. There is a lot going around on Web 2.0 and we also had a speaker at our SLA conference this year describing what Web 2.0 is all about. In comparison, Karen's presentation was quite detailed. She summarised the main areas for the conference, and did a separate workshop for others who wanted to go in depth. She mainly spoke about Web 2.0, the concept and how it works. I was aware of face book and my space, but I learnt about twitters and flickr during her presentation. Although it was a very interesting topic and in line with the

current trend, I feel that in practical life we have very little time or no time at work to use these tools.

I attended 2 optional sessions in the afternoon.

1. Music and inter-lending

I attended the optional session on Music and inter lending presented by Liz Hart and Graham Muncy.

I was interested to attend this session as we at Clifton have a music school and a library with approximately 10,000 books. I wanted to get an idea on the copyright & photocopying issues and sources for borrowing scores and books on music.

I went to the session with hardly any knowledge on music scores/books. The session discussed about inter-loans of performance sets. I learnt what performance sets are. It was interesting to know that there are sets of vocal scores, orchestral sets and play sets under Performance sets.

I learnt about 'Encore' - national performance sets catalogue / database facilities. We also discussed about the problems in the ILL of music sets. Some of them were specific titles/ tracing correct edition, cost, updating of 'encore', value of some materials, and quite importantly the non-coverage on standard ILL systems. The session proved to be very beneficial for me as not only were my questions regarding copyright and borrowing of music scores answered, I also came back with a lot of extra information which I was able to pass on to my music department and other librarians. I learned that it is necessary to say a straight 'NO' for any photocopying of music sets which I have put in practice since I returned from the conference.

2. Antony Brewerton --Brand new: an inspirational approach to marketing your library service

A qualified librarian and marketer from Warwick University, his seminar was undoubtedly the best one for me at this conference. Marketing is a big issue in school libraries. I went to this seminar with an intention to learn more about marketing my library. His presentation was full of information about branding libraries topped with practical solutions to our marketing needs. He talked about using surveys, questionnaires and focus groups. He also talked about how successfully he has used them at Oxford Brookes where he worked prior to Warwick. At the end of the session, I was filled with ideas as to how best could I help towards marketing my library; however, after a discussion with Antony I narrowed down my thoughts from 'promoting my library' to 'promoting my resources and benefits of the library'. I am currently working on the

'Ladder of Loyalty' suggested by him. I feel that any librarian struggling with the marketing issue will gain immensely from attending his session. If I get funding from school I would like to use Anthony's marketing idea of the bag publicising the library

This whole experience was very rewarding in terms of information, experience and contacts. I am lucky to be one of the first people to be provided with this funding and I am sure in the coming years others will benefit as well.

Thank – you

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