

Inspire supports libraries from all sectors in working together to enable members of communities across the UK who are engaged in lifelong learning or research to find and access their information needs.

Inspire News

Findit!

There is some progress at last on how Inspire members will be able to update their records in Findit! Collections Trust have arranged an initial training session for key records managers on November 23rd. I anticipate that this will allow me to iron out any remaining wrinkles in the data entry process for Inspire members and to create a new information sheet on data entry which, after I have been able to trial it with a few guinea-pigs, will be made available for all those who have been accustomed to entering their own data into Findit! via Cornucopia.

November Focus – library collaboration in Scotland.

Last month we focused on collaborative schemes in Wales, this month we are featuring a range of collaborative work being undertaken in Scotland including an item kindly contributed by Professor Peter Reid.

This of course is just a flavour of the full range of collaborative activity in Scotland. If anyone involved in other activities would like to get in touch with me, we would be delighted to feature their work in future newsletters.

National Library of Scotland

Janice McFarlane
Head of Partnerships & Professional Adviser
National Library of Scotland

Collaboration in Scotland extends to all sectors of the LIS community, with much of the activity revolving around specific regional groupings, including ALF (Ayrshire Libraries Forum); ELISA (Edinburgh Libraries & Information Services Agency); Grampian Information; LICS (Libraries in Central Scotland); and TAFLIN (Tayside & Fife Library and Information Network). The make-up and remit of these groups differ to reflect the priorities and strengths of their regions. For instance Grampian Information includes an Oil Industry Group, and ELISA contains representatives from some of the many voluntary organisations based in the city, and TAFLIN concentrates on providing training courses. (for more information on these groups – see below)

Despite these differences there is a genuine desire to share expertise and experience across the regions. A representative from the National Library of Scotland (NLS) is a member of each regional committee, helping to spread the word about plans and activities across the country, and, building on this, several cross-regional meetings have been held, looking at ways to expand cooperation and share information. In this way information about local initiatives, such as the [Edinburgh Library Passport Scheme](#), can influence planning for similar schemes in other parts of the country. The cross-regional meetings have already led to an agreement which opens up the potential of local training courses or conferences being open to members of other regional groups.

The NLS is working with the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) and Heads of Public Library Services to determine how we work more closely together to take forward such initiatives as the Scottish Collaborative Print Retention Policy, and the development of an annual meeting to share best practice and new developments. The NLS is also working in partnership with 10 Scottish public library authorities to digitise up to 400, pre-1911, Scottish street directories which will be of immense value to family, local and social history researchers, while helping to safeguard fragile and heavily-used resources currently distributed across the country.

As we move forward into an era of ever tighter budgets collaboration becomes even more important, and offers opportunities for continuing to expand the services on offer to both library staff and their customers.

Regional Co-operative Groups in Scotland

Professor Peter Reid, Head of Department

Department of Information Management, Robert Gordon University

In parts of Scotland there has been a long history of regional co-operative groups in the Library and Information sectors. The oldest of these is Grampian Information which covers Aberdeen and North-East Scotland. Grampian Information has been in existence since the early 1990s. It has been joined by a number of others, detailed below, and more recently the regional groups have started to come together and work collaboratively with the assistance of both the National Library of Scotland and the Scottish Library and Information Council.

Initially, the driver for these groups was to bring together library and information professionals working in different sectors for knowledge exchange and joint training events. This was particularly significant in Aberdeen where there is a high proportion of solo information professionals working in the energy sector. A key factor in this was the creating an environment where practitioners could learn from different sectors about new ways of working and trying new ways to solving old problems

In the early days of these groups, much of the focus was on practical knowledge exchange with schemes such as local inter-library lending or through the regular meetings of the special interest sub-groups. That focus has gradually shifted over the years and now the emphasis is more on training, professional and personal development events, networking and in the cases of some of the groups, an annual conference.



Ayrshire Library Forum (now SWISS) owed its establishment to the dedication of Stuart James, formerly Librarian at the University of Paisley. Over the years has produced a number of excellent information resources covering Ayrshire and South West Scotland. In particular its Working Lives project which brought together and archive gallery of industrial and agricultural images. Details at www.workinglives.org.uk

November 2010



Edinburgh Libraries and Information Services Agency (ELISA)

<http://www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info/>

ELISA it acts as a network for all the library and information professionals based in Edinburgh. There are over 130 different libraries and information services in the city. ELISA benefited enormously from the dedication of Wendy Ball who was its development officer for a number of years. During her time in charge the Agency produced the Edinburgh Libraries Guide, initiated the Edinburgh Library Passport Scheme and held the hugely successful 2008 Festival of Libraries.



Libraries in Central Scotland

www.slainte.org.uk/lics/

Libraries in Central Scotland (LiCS) is a consortium of information services developing co-operation and knowledge-sharing in central Scotland particularly clustered around the Stirling and Falkirk areas. It is currently led by Robert Ruthven, Library Manager for Stirling Council. The catalogues of LiCS members are all available on CAIRNS (Cooperative Information Retrieval Network for Scotland) and all details of collections are included on SCONE (Scottish Collections Network).



Grampian Information

www.gramianinfo.co.uk

Grampian Information has been in existence for almost twenty years. Much of its focus revolves around delivering training events and workshops throughout the year in local venues. The organisation's principle event is its annual one-day conference held in November each year which attracts professionals from all sectors across the north of Scotland. The theme for 2010 has been advocacy and marketing.



Tayside and Fife Library and Information Network

www.dundee.gov.uk/taflin

TAFLIN is one of the most active of the regional groups and in particular has a strong focus on providing staff development and training opportunities. In the last year, it ran more than ten different training workshops. Most of these were

very reasonably priced half-day events. Like Grampian Information to the north, TAFLIN attaches strong emphasis to delivering affordable local training.

In the last two years, representatives of the regional groups have come together on an occasional basis to co-ordinate activities and to share knowledge and experiences. These meetings have been very productive and there was a remarkable degree of consensus when agreeing to goals to which all of the regional co-operatives in Scotland could subscribe. These were summarised as:

- To enhance and broaden access to library and information services
- To work together to improve staff development and training opportunities
- To co-ordinate the development of services and resources
- To promote best practice
- To provide a forum for networking
- To act as agents of advocacy for libraries

These remain the principles by which all of the Scottish Library and Information Service Co-operatives work.



Walk-In Access to E-Resources

Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL) has acquired funding from the Scottish Library and Information Council's¹ Innovation and Development Fund for a one-year project to "Support Resource Sharing Initiatives through the provision of Walk-In-Access (WIA) to E-Resources subscribed to by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Scotland."

Within Scotland and SCURL, a tradition of collaborative activity has developed over 30 years. The aims of this project are to increase collaboration between partners, to support LifeLong Learning and the development of skills within education, research and innovation

The increasing move to the use of e-resources has allowed HE and FE Libraries to begin to remove the equivalent print content in certain disciplines to off-site storage and re-develop their floor space to better suit the mobile learning environment. Whilst this may be of benefit to many institution's core members, visitors to the Library and to the Library's website, may no longer be able to access journals (now in digital format only) because of the terms and conditions of the licences pertaining to the relevant content or the due diligence practiced by IT colleagues to protect university networks.

¹ SLIC <http://www.slainte.org.uk/slic/slicindex.htm>

The project will investigate technical and operational solutions to enable HEIs to make available to external users, including unaffiliated researchers, users of Further Education Colleges, local communities, businesses, and the general public, those electronic resources for which "walk-in" licences are in place in HE libraries in Scotland. The resulting WIA toolkit aims to assist with managed access, and to provide best practice guidance to interpret the licence agreements using Electronic Resource Management systems.

More information may be sought from Jill Evans, SCURL Service Development Manager. j.evans@nls.uk

The Scottish Higher education Digital Library (SHEDL)²

The Scottish Higher Education Digital Library is the first super-consortial purchasing scheme within the UK, which, strategically, has provided all Scottish HEIs with access to the same complement of e-resources from 6 publishers, representing over 1850 scholarly specialist publications, plus Portico, over a three contract. SHEDL eliminates differential access to journals and provides support to Scottish research pooling initiatives and also to learning and teaching by widening access to content across the sector. The success of SHEDL is facilitated by JISC Collections³ who negotiate on behalf of SCURL SHEDL.

More information may be sought from Jill Evans, SCURL Service Development Manager. j.evans@nls.uk

The Research Information Network has recently published a report on the SHEDL initiative which can be found [here](#).

"Ask Scotland"

The [Scottish Library and Information Council](#) (SLIC) has just launched "Ask Scotland" at www.askscotland.org.uk which is an on-line information service provided by Scotland's Libraries with the response delivered to your desktop. The service is co-ordinated by SLIC and provided by many of the major public libraries in Scotland. It is also supported by the [Scottish Poetry Library](#) and the [Glasgow Women's Library](#).

Other News

Open Access Week

For those who have followed the recent Open Access Week with interest as well as for those who may not have been aware of it, you may be interested in the following statement and short video.

With just under 900 participants in 94 countries, this year's Open Access Week was three times larger than it was just a year ago. Hundreds of videos, photos and blog posts were released to promote and highlight the benefits of open access (OA) to research and take the conversation even more deeply into the research community.

² SHEDL <http://scur.ac.uk/WG/SHEDL/index.html>

³ JISC Collections <http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/>

Open Access Week started as a student-driven event in 2007 with support from [Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition \(SPARC\)](#) and the library community, Open Access Day was at first a library-centric affair. The student stake in the conversation on access continues to grow, and this year participants from the academy - including humanists, climate change scientists, provosts, research funders, Nobel laureates and lawyers – reportedly took advantage of the occasion to share their insights on how OA had had an impact on their work and lives.

Students at Boston University made a video to illustrate the loss they feel when studying without access to the resources they need: (<http://www.openaccessweek.org/video/open-access>). In Open Families (<http://www.arl.org/sparc/openaccess/openfamilies>), scientists relate in personal and compelling terms how OA to the research and data they produce, as well as that produced by others, is not just a professional cause for them but a family affair.

Next up – Conan the librarian

Article by Ian Christie at Birkbeck University has been looking at why film directors often use libraries when introducing terror, sex or violence. *Times Higher Education*, p13, 21 October 2010

Perhaps he was not aware that there was already a video on this subject <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukJmF6f0JdQ> (NB Not for the faint hearted)

Events

UKSG/JISC Collections E-Resources for Further Education: London

6 Dec 2010 10:00 <http://www.uksg.org/event/FE061210>

A one-day seminar focusing specifically on the Further Education sector, and addressing the issues and practicalities of providing and managing effective high quality e-resources collections within Further Education libraries, providing an informative day for anyone involved in the provision of e-resources in FE libraries covering

- best practice case studies in the fields of purchasing e-resources
- marketing techniques and strategies
- usage statistics and performance indicators and how best to use these to inform your e-resource practices.

The event will also give delegates an opportunity to meet with colleagues in the FE sector for discussion, problem solving and networking.

NB: Attendance is restricted to those working in the FE sector. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Fee: £40.00 + £7.00 VAT [17.5%] (total £47.00)

With many thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter

and a **Reminder** that this newsletter should be about activities in the regions so if you would like to contribute information on events in your area, whether they are large or small, please send up an update on



Inspire - eNewsletter

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*Inspire in your region or any other items which might be of interest to Inspire members – to me at the usual address:
sally.curry@newcastle.ac.uk*

Thank you