

*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**

### **Inspire work supported by the National Library of Wales**

Inspire is delighted to be able to announce that its work is now formally endorsed by the National Library of Wales. Inspire has also long been similarly endorsed by the British Library.

#### **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR INSPIRE**

**1 DECEMBER 2010**

The National Library of Wales is pleased to support and work with Inspire to achieve its purpose of improving access to information and library collections through collaboration and partnerships.

By working together across sectors, libraries can enrich people's lives by improving access to information, encouraging and fostering social inclusion, and increasing skills and information literacy.

The National Library of Wales welcomes Inspire's commitment to promoting collaboration and engaging with libraries across sectors to promote the strategic agenda of providing lifelong learning through wider access to information for all.

Andrew Green, Librarian

### **Findit! Update**

Hilary Fender from LIEM (Libraries and Information East Midlands), Sara Haqqi from Wandsworth and I attended the training session arranged by Collections Trust for us on Culture Grid on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a very helpful meeting and I am encouraged that the new system will be manageable by all.

Sarah, Hilary and I will trial this new system (in our spare moments) and will a) report back to Collections Trust and b) adapt the generic 'Help' manual specifically for the needs of Inspire users.

I will keep you informed of progress.

## **Sharing services – sharing experience**

Rosemary Lynch, Head of Library and Learning Services, University for the Creative Arts and Chair of M25 Consortium Director Services Task Group has contributed this piece on an interesting initiative within the [M25\\_group](#).

### **M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries: Directors' Room Initiative**

Directors' Room was conceived and developed by the Consortium as an online communication and collaboration tool for directors of M25 library services. In

Directors' Room, users can find colleagues with particular skills and experience, discuss current issues and share their own knowledge in a confidential environment.

Directors' Room went live in September 2009 and by its first anniversary, 83% of M25 Directors had signed up. A steady band of regular users log in weekly to post queries and responses on a broad range of strategic and operational topics and offer views and guidance on policy and practice.

An automated weekly email updates users on activity. Many Directors find value in simply reading the message boards and finding an alternative perspective on a current pre-occupation; others find conversations started in Directors' Room lead on to new collaborations around shared interests and spawn meetings – both real and virtual - with a wider group of interested people. The following quotation from a regular user neatly summarises the vital new dimension that Directors' Room has brought to the Consortium and the potential advantages for the communities we serve:

"The Directors' Room has a real place at this time. It enables discussion about the issues that are important to us as Directors of library services. Libraries in higher education are going through major transformational change. Sharing ideas and experience has never been more important. We are also facing the most severe financial environment that any of us have experienced. The Directors' Room facilitates support and networking across the M25 Consortium and, critically, could encourage the growth of the partnerships and shared services which libraries are likely to need to build in order to cope with reduced funding"  
*Phillip Payne, Librarian, Birkbeck, University of London*

## Events

### **Grampian Information Conference e 2010**

The annual conference of Grampian Information, the network for information professionals throughout the North-East of Scotland was held at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on the 4 November 2010. The theme of the conference was Advocacy and Impact. As ever, the delegates, including members from archival services, the oil industry and science industry as well as Public and University libraries and students from the librarianship course, found it an inspiring and positive day, despite what many feel to be a difficult times for library and information services everywhere.

This year, there were two excellent keynote speakers with two very different modes of delivery. Antony Brewerton of the University of Warwick delivered a presentation at the venue that was very lively and well received by the delegates. Elisabeth Elford, Head of Advocacy for the British Library was present through a video conferencing facility in which the delegates could listen to her presentation as well as view it on the sixty foot screen in front of them! Delegates were then able to pose questions to Elisabeth even though she was in London.

Morning and afternoon sessions drew on the expertise of local and national experts. John Coll of the National Library of Scotland addressed the many

services available to Scottish residents through the Library. Laurence Bebbington of the University of Aberdeen gave an in-depth presentation regarding the Digital Economy Act. Chris Pinder, President of CILIPS Scotland for 2009-2010 presented on the lessons he has learned throughout his travels in Scotland this year, including using perceived threats as opportunities for change and growth. Elaine Fulton discussed the challenges of meeting the diverse needs of CILIPS members throughout Scotland.

The Conference closed with many positive comments about the lessons learned and opportunities to talk with colleagues from diverse fields that are an opportunity unique to Grampian Information events.

### **Early notice for events in the South West of England**

Keep an eye open for events in the SW in the Spring next year - a workshop on open educational resources is under consideration. Further information in the Inspire e-newsletter early next year.

### **Promote your event**

If you are involved in a setting up a conference which has an audience from across the library sectors and would like to promote it in the Inspire e-newsletter, we would be pleased to do so, so do get in touch - the usual email address [sally.curry@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:sally.curry@newcastle.ac.uk)

## **Other News**

### **Access to e-resources for Walk in Users**

For anyone who provides managed access to some e-resources for their walk in users, it might be useful to know that, if you hold OECD online materials, these are all licensed for use by all - members of your institution and also all categories of walk in users.

Toby Green Head of Publishing at OECD recently wrote:

"...OECD's terms of use encourages librarians to make maximum use of OECD iLibrary and this would include retired staff, alumni and others with remote access via the institution's network."

### **Feed the birds**

Did you know over half the adults in the UK feed birds in their garden? Now the winter has well and truly arrived, it's the perfect time to help our feathered friends survive periods of severe weather and keep in good breeding condition for the spring. For tips on what food to provide, read advice from the experts at RSPB - <http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/feeding/index.asp>

### **Happy Christmas**

For all who enjoy music - hope this may put you in a festive mood: (NB You need the sound turned on, on your computer to watch this)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXh7JR9oKVE>



Inspire - eNewsletter

December 2010

**With many thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter and others during 2010** and a **Reminder** that this newsletter should be about collaborative activities, ideas and proposals throughout the UK – and beyond so, if you would like to contribute information on events in your area, whether they are large or small, or any other items which might be of interest to Inspire members –please send them to me at the usual address: [sally.curry@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:sally.curry@newcastle.ac.uk)

*Thank you*